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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

7 DAYS BEFORE Christmas

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXV, Issue No. 251

www.saipantribune.com | **FRIDAY** DECEMBER 18, 2015 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune | 75¢

CPA firefighter drowns in Laolao

The remote area of Laolao Bay where firefighter Raymond Villagomez was found by Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Search and Rescue Unit lying on the sand after spear fishing with a companion on Wednesday afternoon. Villagomez was taken to the hospital where a doctor pronounced him dead. DEREK GERSONDE

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Commonwealth Ports Authority-Aircraft Rescue firefighter drowned while spear fishing at East Bay in Laolao on Wednesday afternoon.

Raymond Villagomez, 21, was pronounced dead by a doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center at 4:42pm, according to Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services information officer Derek Gersonde yesterday.

Gersonde said that Villagomez was with one other person while spear fishing. He did not elaborate as to what happened.

CPA executive director MaryAnn Q. Lizama said they are saddened by the loss of Villagomez.

See CPA on Page 4

Aborted Dynasty casino reopening boils down to 'he said, she said'

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission and Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino are offering two contrasting explanations why the latter's casino operations didn't reopen last Tuesday as planned.

Responding to *Saipan Tribune* queries yesterday, Tinian Dynasty general manager Christopher Bishop simply said the "gaming commission has not given permission to reopen" as the reason for the aborted reopening.

When pressed for details,

See CASINO on Page 4

House OKs bill giving casinos 24-hour liquor license

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

» **Also exempts casinos from alcohol ban on Election Day; allows ABTC staff to carry firearms**

The House of Representative passed yesterday a bill that would allow casino and electronic gaming facilities to serve alcohol 24 hours a day. Current rules allow the sale of alcohol in bars and restaurants only up to 2am.

House Bill 19-87 HD1 SD1, authored by Rep.

See HOUSE on Page 4

NEW PAVILION

Acting governor Ralph DLG Torres, sixth from left, and Coral Ocean Golf Resort general manager Matthew Park, fourth from left, lead the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new pavilion at the Unai Dangkulo Beach Park inside the Coral Ocean Golf Resort yesterday. Others in photo are UMDA chair Joe Lifoifoi, Rep. Tony Sablan, Senate President Victor B. Hocog, Public Works Secretary James Ada, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, and Reps. Angel A. Demapan and Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero. JON PEREZ

INSIDE

OFFBEAT

A kitten is rescued from certain death as the animal was heading down a conveyor belt.

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SCIENCE & TECH

Younger kids are joining the technology revolution by learning to code.

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LIFE & STYLE

This weekend, experience *A Christmas Carol* in a way you've never seen before!

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Local

FROM $27M MINIMUM ANNUAL PAYMENT IN 2015:

'Govt should pay $30M in FY 2016'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An independent actuary has determined that the CNMI government should make a minimum annual payment of $30 million in fiscal year 2016, $33 million in fiscal 2017, and $45 million in fiscal 2018 to pay 75 percent of the NMI Settlement Fund members' pension benefits.

Government payments in fiscal years 2014 and 2015 were fixed at $25 million and $27 million, respectively.

The settlement agreement in Betty Johnson's class action that created the NMI Settlement Fund requires the CNMI to make minimum annual payments each year to pay 75 percent of the class members' full benefits.

The Settlement Fund retained Milliman Inc. to provide an independent actuarial valuation of the Fund.

NMI Settlement Fund counsel Dean Manglona submitted to the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Wednesday the actuarial valuation report prepared by Milliman Inc.

According to Milliman, the minimum payment for the CNMI government is estimated at $44 million in fiscal 2019 if life expectancies are based on the mortality table used in the 2012 actuarial valuation of the NMI Retirement Fund.

The minimum payments, Milliman said, are estimated to decline by $1 million per year until fiscal 2024, resulting in a minimum payment of $39 million that year.

Minimum payments after fiscal 2024 will decline by $0 to $500,000 per year until fiscal 2031, resulting in a minimum payment of $36.75 million by then.

At that point, according to Milliman, the Fund balance is projected to be nearly exhausted and CNMI payments will equal the benefits and expenses paid

See GOVT on Page 4

PH passport distribution at 'Paskong Pinoy'

The Philippine Consulate General will be distributing passports of those who applied and were processed last October at Sunday's celebration of the traditional *Paskong Pinoy* at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

Philippine honorary consul Glicerio "Eli" Arago said yesterday that he received more than 200 passports for distribution.

Arago, who will also attend the United Filipino Organization-organized *Paskong Pinoy* festivities, said Mel Santos and other volunteers would be distributing the passports from 10am to 3pm only.

Unclaimed passports last September will also be distributed that same day. Those who applied must bring their receipt and old passport.

UFO has lined up several activities, contests, and entertainment numbers for this year's *Paskong Pinoy,* which is co-sponsored by IT&E and LBC.

Kids will get the chance to participate in different games, Christmas art making contest, and gift giving.

The Christmas singing competitions start at 2pm with the choral, solo, and battle of the bands. Entries for the Christmas lantern-making contest will also be judged that same day.

The announcement of all the winners will be made after the battle of the bands.

The Deal Or No Deal game show will serve as the highlight, with one lucky participant winning $2,000. ***(Jon Perez)***

CUC emergency status renewed

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Due to the threat of the inability of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to provide critical power generation, water, and wastewater the CNMI, acting governor Ralph DLG Torres renewed yesterday the declaration of a state of significant emergency for CUC.

He said there continues to exist a financial crisis at the utilities company, as CUC is owed over $20 million by the Public School System and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., not including the millions of dollars owed by private consumers.

Although the local economy has recently showed some signs of recovery, Torres said the improvement is only marginal and the CNMI economy and the government's finances are still fragile.

"This government strains to meet its obligations," he said.

Making the situation worse, Torres said, is that CUC often only has days' worth of diesel fuel to power its system because it lacks the funds to buy oil from its sole, cash-only supplier.

Add to this is the technical worker crisis that exists at CUC. Torres said CUC faces a manpower crisis as CNMI law prohibits CUC from hiring more non-U.S. technical workers.

Torres said the impact of the inadequate workforce is substantial. "First, there would be a direct deterioration of service to existing customers. There would be brownouts or area blackouts with the above-mentioned loss of service. Second, the power plants would again degrade, producing more of these outages. Third, if CUC fails to meet federal court deadlines for Stipulated Orders, the court could appoint a federal receiver and its consulting team, with all expenses charged to CUC customers."

He said the utilities company also bears a substantial obligation to deliver highly technical work on time to the satisfaction of the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "pursuant to two sets of consent, or 'Stipulated Orders.' Failure to meet the requirements of the federal court orders could subject CUC and the CNMI to substantial fines and charges and, in the extreme, to a federal takeover of their finances."

CUC has been under a state of emergency for about 10 years now. The declaration allows the government to "suspend all statutory or regulatory provisions as required, and utilize all available resources of the Commonwealth government and its political subdivisions as reasonably necessary to respond to the emergency."

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Woman arrested for allegedly smoking 'ice' again

The U.S. Marshal Service arrested again yesterday Alexandra Castro Macabalo for allegedly smoking methamphetamine or "ice" and violating other pre-trial conditions.

The U.S. Marshal Service served Macabalo with an arrest warrant issued on the same day yesterday by U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

Manglona issued the arrest warrant after the U.S. Probation Office notified the court about Macabalo's alleged violations.

Macabalo was taken to court yesterday afternoon.

According to U.S. probation officer assistant Juanette David-Atalig, Macabalo tested positive for the use of "ice" during a random drug test last Dec. 3 at the defendant's house on Saipan.

David-Atalig said Macabalo also failed to appear for a scheduled group counseling last Dec. 12 and also did not attend her mental health appointment with a doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center last Dec. 11.

The probation officer added that Macabalo failed to report to the U.S. Probation Office and failed to submit to location monitoring.

Macabalo is facing a charge in federal court for enticing her then-15-year-old cousin to engage in sex for cash with a government official in 2013.

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents arrested Macabalo last April after a complaint was filed in court, charging her with enticement of a minor to engage in prostitution and other sexual activity.

The indictment was later subsequently filed. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

MVA promotes Saipan Marathon set for April 16, 2016

The Marianas Visitors Authority has begun promotions for the 11th Annual Saipan Marathon on April 16, 2016.

The MVA participated in the annual Pink Ribbon Marathon held at Hibiya Park in Tokyo on Nov. 28, 2015, distributing Saipan Marathon leaflets to runners at the Delta Air Lines booth.

In addition, one lucky couple won a prize package to participate in the Saipan Marathon, including airline tickets donated by Delta Air Lines, 3-night accommodations donated by Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and marathon entry tickets donated by the MVA.

"With this week's positive meeting with Delta Air Lines top regional management, we are optimistic about an even stronger turnout from Japan next year for the marathon," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "MVA promotions have already started in Japan, and we welcome all local runners to also help us get the word out about this fabulous local event through their own regional and international running channels. Mark your calendars for April 16."

The marathon will again include half-marathon, 10K, and 50K courses. The last day to register for the event will be on March 18, 2016, and an early bird registration deadline will also be announced. Registration will include the awards banquet, a finishers T-shirt, and a certificate of completion.

All competitors are required to pick up their race packets on April 15, 2016, at Paseo De Marianas entrance across Fiesta Resort & Spa. Entry forms are available at the MVA office located in on Beach Rd. in San Jose or on the MVA official website Event Calendar at www.mymarianas.com. For more information contact MVA Community Projects specialist Ed Diaz at the MVA at 1.670.664.3210 or at ediaz@mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

At the Pink Ribbon Marathon on Nov. 28, 2016, in Tokyo, a lucky couple won a prize package to participate in the Saipan Marathon on April 16, 2016. The package included airline tickets donated by Delta Air Lines, 3-night accommodations donated by Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and marathon entry tickets donated by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

MVA

At the Pink Ribbon Marathon on Nov. 28, 2016, in Tokyo, the Marianas Visitors Authority distributed leaflets to promote the Saipan Marathon on April 16, 2016.

MVA

CPA

From Page 1

"Everyone at CPA is still trying to wrap our heads around the untimely passing of Ray and especially at a very young age," Lizama said.

Lizama said that Villagomez's brethren firefighters are most affected as they have naturally become close within the bond of brotherhood of firefighters.

"The CPA board of directors, staff, and management extend our thoughts and prayers to Ray's family as they go through this difficult time. He will be dearly missed by his CPA family," Lizama said.

DFEMS received a call on Wednesday at 1:46pm from an unknown person reporting a drowning incident in Laolao.

The DFEMS Search and Rescue Unit searched along the cliff lines of Laolao Bay and found Villagomez lying on the sand in a remote area of the bay.

The Zodiac 3 rescue boat of the Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Unit retrieved the victim and brought him to the Smiling Cove Marina.

At Smiling Cove, medics from the Garapan Fire Station were on standby. When the boat arrived, DFEMS medical technicians retrieved the body from Boating Safety officers.

Gersonde said the body was already in a body bag and medical technicians saw that the victim's pupils were fixed and dilated. A white foamy discharge was coming out of the victim's mouth and nose.

"All these signs are the obvious signs of death," Gersonde said.

Villagomez was then taken to CHC, where he was pronounced dead.

Last Nov. 14, a male Chinese tourist diver drowned while three other divers were safely rescued by DPS personnel at the Grotto in Marpi.

Last June 16, a 60-year-old Korean female tourist drowned while snorkeling with some family members on Managaha Island.

CASINO

From Page 1

Bishop said the future reopening of Tinian Dynasty's casino is now on the TCGCC's court as they've already met all the conditions set by the casino regulator.

"We have completed all their conditions, so the timetable is up to them," he said in a Facebook message to *Saipan Tribune*.

TCGCC executive director Lucy Blanco-Maratita denied Bishop's assertion that Tinian Dynasty has already met all the conditions the commission set in order for the casino to be allowed to reopen.

"Three hours before the start of the program [reopening on Tuesday, Dec. 15] we told him that he [Bishop] couldn't reopen. I called him on Friday [Dec. 11] and then I called him on Monday [Dec. 14] because they were planning to reopen on Tuesday. I asked about updates, specifically if the gaming tables and the slot machines fees will be paid and he said he doesn't know.

"'Today is Monday and tomorrow you're opening so you need more time if you intend to reopen. Let us know if you're going to meet the conditions,'" Blanco-Maratita recalled her conversation with the Tinian Dynasty general manager.

She told Bishop that one of the easiest items to cross off from the list of conditions is the fees for the gaming tables and slot machines, yet even that, Blanco-Maratita said, Tinian Dynasty failed to meet.

"The easiest one to meet is pay the fees because it would be worthless to open the casino and you cannot use the gaming tables and the slot machines," she told *Saipan Tribune* in a telephone interview yesterday.

Blanco-Maratita said the fees for slot machines is $175 apiece and for gaming tables it is $250 apiece. In all, Tinian Dynasty only had to come up with between $50,000 and $60,000 to fulfill one of the regulators' requirements.

On their end, Blanco-Maratita said that acting governor Ralph DLG Torres' signing of the Tinian municipal budget on Tuesday finally allowed them to again staff the gaming commission office, which is one of the requirements for the reopening of the casino.

"The other condition is we need to have a fully functioning gaming commission office. We need the auditors in place and the gaming commissioners to be back. When there was no budget, they were furloughed and they did not come in and work. None of the administrative staff came in and worked," she said.

It will be recalled that the shuttering of the casino in August resulted in not only TCGCC to furlough personnel but also Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas to let go off some of his staff as well.

Other requirements for the casino's reopening include the rehiring of Spectrum Gaming and the settling of Tinian Dynasty's financial obligations to its former employees who haven't been paid their salaries.

"They need to have the Spectrum Gaming consultants in place and they have to be involved and assist them in order to be in compliance," Blanco-Maratita said, adding that the condition was in place even before the casino closed in the summer.

"They [Spectrum Gaming] are no longer here. They [Tinian Dynasty] have to make sure the contract is updated. They have also not submitted a payment plan. We don't know if they have paid their employees but I guess that's now in the bankruptcy court. They have to make sure they meet their financial obligations including for their employees."

Blanco-Maratita said even though Tinian Dynasty's casino is not operational, TCGCC staff are back at work because there are other casino licenses that need to be taken cared of.

"There are other casino license applicants—Alter City Group, Bridge Investment Group. There are other things the commission has to address, including the bankruptcy filing of Tinian Dynasty."

HOUSE

From Page 1

Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan), amends and repeals certain sections of Public Law 18-56 that authorizes, establishes, and regulates an exclusive casino gaming license in the Commonwealth so it can address provisions that sets the hours of sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages within the casino premises. The bill also includes e-gaming facilities.

"The Legislature finds that it is rational to implement a special casino license that allows for the 24 hours (sic) operation of sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages within the designated casino premises within the Commonwealth (Saipan, Tinian, Rota) that caters to our gaming and tourism industries," the bill reads.

This would be done with the creation of a new Class-8 Special Casino Liquor License.

Aside from giving a special liquor license to casinos and all e-gaming facilities, H.B. 19-87 also exempts casinos and e-gaming facilities from the Election Day ban on the sale of alcohol.

This didn't sit well with Rep. Edwin Propst (Ind-Saipan), who wrote on his Facebook page, " While all other bars and restaurants and hotels on island are forbidden to sell alcohol on Election Day, these gambling establishments will be allowed to do so. This is beyond unfair."

Another provision of the bill is it now allows personnel from the Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control Division to carry firearms. Propst said the provision arming ABTC staff should have been a separate bill.

Aside from Propst, lawmakers who voted "no" to H.B. 19-87 were Reps. Ramon Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero, Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Blas Jonathan "BJ" Attao (Ind-Saipan), Vinnie Sablan (Ind-Saipan), and George Camacho (R-Saipan).

The bill now heads to the Senate for action. If the Senate passes it without any amendments, it would go to Gov. Eloy S. Inos for his signature.

GOVT

From Page 2

by the Settlement Fund.

"If we assume improved life expectancies, the minimum payment for [the] CNMI is estimated to increase to $46 [million] for FY 2019," the report said, adding that the minimum payments are estimated to stay at that level through fiscal 2032.

Minimum payments after fiscal 2032 are estimated to be $46.25 million for three years.

At that point, Milliman said, the Fund balance is projected to be nearly exhausted and the CNMI payments will equal the benefits and expenses paid by the Settlement Fund.

NMI Settlement Fund trustee Joyce C. H. Tang discussed yesterday in federal court the status report for the combined second, third and fourth quarters of fiscal 2015. U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood presided over the hearing.

'Deleon Guerrero's grant-writing expertise key in transfer'

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Acting governor Ralph DLG Torres said erstwhile Department of Public Safety commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero's transfer to the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management had much to do with his expertise in obtaining federal grants than anything else.

"In the past months, we have been given a strong reason to support our first responders to improve our resiliency against future natural disasters. I have faith in James Deleon Guerrero's abilities to support the needs of our first responders through his experience and success in acquiring federal resources for the cause," he said in a statement to the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The former CNMI top cop was appointed acting special assistant for Homeland Security effective yesterday, Dec. 17. He replaced Marvin Seman at HSEM, who resigned last Dec. 7.

Taking Deleon Guerrerro's place at DPS is Robert Guerrero, who before yesterday was the commissioner of the Department of Corrections. Torres said Guerrero's cadet program at DOC is a model program that can be emulated at DPS.

"I know that Department of Public Safety is in good hands with Robert Guerrero who has showcased strong leadership and implemented necessary reforms to the Corrections system," he said.

Ultimately, the reshuffling of the top posts at HSEM, DPS, and DOC, which also includes the promotion of Capt. Jose Pangelinan as acting Corrections commissioner, will benefit the people of the CNMI, Torres said.

"These departments are interconnected in many ways and I feel that this new organization of leadership will serve the best interest of our officers and first responders," he said.

In a statement, Deleon Guerrero looked back at his accomplishment at DPS.

"Over the past three years, a lot of focus was made in improving the working environment for employees, recruitment of individuals with higher learning credentials, development and implementation of new policies and procedures, advocating for new legislation in support of law enforcement, and improving the relationship our department with all state and federal law enforcement agency partners," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said DPS' partners could see the results of these efforts whenever they visit DPS Central today.

He also expressed a bit of melancholy for leaving his post at DPS.

"Throughout my commissionership, I've made decisions that were both popular and unpopular in the department. Some were happy while some were disappointed. However, rest assured that all of the decisions I made…were done so in a manner where I wholeheartedly believed that what I was doing was in the best interest of the DPS. I am saddened that I am leaving behind a department with many of the most loyal groups of men and women I have ever known. So much work remains unfinished at the DPS."

Deleon Guerrero said he is comforted by the fact that he is leaving the department with a successor whose ambitions and vision closely parallels his own.

"Today [Wednesday], I met with all of the DPS directors, commanders and supervisors. I thanked them for their sacrifices, cooperation, dedication and commitment to our department. I was grateful for their friendship over the 27 years that I've served at DPS. It has been a remarkable experience for me personally," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said he had a very close working relationship with Guerrero while serving as DPS commissioner and that he fully intends to work even closer with him with his new assignment as the special assistant for HSEM.

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Administration extends appreciation to FEMA, fed counterparts

As the CNMI enters the Christmas and New Year's season, acting governor Ralph DLG Torres, speaking on behalf of Gov. Eloy S. Inos, extended the administration's profound appreciation to President Obama through the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other federal counterparts. Today marks the official demobilization of operations after five months working with state officials and voluntary organizations coordinating the recovery and rebuilding efforts after Typhoon Soudelor destroyed homes and crippled infrastructures. The following is Torres' appreciation message to FEMA and the other federal counterparts who assisted CNMI in its time of most need:

Inos

"Five months ago, on a dark Sunday evening, our islands bore the brunt of one of this year's strongest storms and the strongest typhoon to hit us in nearly half a century. After that night, the name Soudelor would forever be tied to the sight of destruction and devastation on Saipan. As the severity of the destruction was fully realized, we had to struggle with the reality of long-term utility and water outages, long lines at supermarkets and fuel stations, and other hardships in obtaining basic necessities.

"Fast forward to the present day, we see significant improvements in our rebuilding efforts. Most of our power and water have been restored. Residents now prepare better for disasters without waiting for the last minute, and our streets, our tourist sites, and our villages have been cleared of large debris. And, most importantly, most homes that were damaged and destroyed are being rebuilt and repaired slowly in all the villages.

"The road to recovery was one of the biggest undertakings and everyone participated from volunteers, friends, family, and government agencies. Various government agencies and non-governmental organizations pooled together their collective expertise to bring relief supplies and sweep the island clear of debris, raise utility poles that were knocked down, and energize each home one by one.

Torres

"We did not recover and rebuild on our own. Timely assistance from partners near and far greatly helped us in the path back to normalcy. Recovery would have been harder had it not been with the assistance of President Obama through the Federal Emergency Management Agency and all the federal agencies involved. Governor Inos and I are truly humbled by the help that

"FEMA Coordinating Officer Mr. Stephen DeBlasio and his team have accomplished together with our local officials in addressing critical areas that needed to be met, and coming up with solutions that lightened our burden as an island.

"They worked hard in ensuring that our people would not only be able to rebuild from the disaster, but be able to withstand future calamities. More importantly, the biggest contribution they have provided us that cannot be quantified in monetary terms is boosting our morale to withstand the devastation, recover, and rebuild. To be compassionate in service is a motto recited every morning by the FEMA team. They have exemplified that in their service to our people.

"To Mr. Stephen DeBlasio and the FEMA team, the Army Corps of Engineers, Navy, Marines, U.S. Coast Guard, SBA, NGO's, and other federal partners not mentioned, we are truly grateful for your selflessness in pulling us out from this dark period of our history. We are blessed that through your collective expertise, we are better prepared for future disasters. As we say [on] the islands, 'It means a lot to give a little,' and you have given us more than we could have asked for. You have given us assurance for the future, ideas to keep us better prepared, and tools that will readily be available when needed. Without a doubt, we will be forever indebted for the sacrifice you made for our people. You are more than just counterparts, you are family.

"As much as we have taken a part of you to guide us in the days ahead, we hope you have also taken a part of us with you as you transition back to your other duties back home. Though this is goodbye for now, we would rather say to you 'Asta ki,' which literally translates to 'Until next time.'

"Godspeed to all of you and may you have a wonderful Christmas and New Year's season with your loved ones. From a grateful Commonwealth, *si yu'os ma'åse, olomwaay*, and thank you very much."

FEMA's Joint Field Office will officially close at the end of the day today. However, for additional assistance, DeBlasio urges the community to follow up on their status by calling 1-800-621-3362 or by checking http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov. ***(Office of the Lieutenant Governor)***

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Cabrera joins the SHEFA board

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Francisco Diaz Cabrera will be bringing more than three decades of experience working in various government agencies and the private sector to the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang swore in Cabrera at his office in Chalan Laulau yesterday morning.

Cabrera said he felt the warm reception of SHEFA chair Oscar M. Babauta and his co-board members immediately after being confirmed by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation last Tuesday.

The CNMI Workers Compensation Commission program director will take over the post of former SHEFA chair Joe Mafnas as the latter resigned to concentrate on his job as Division of Customs director.

"I will bring to the board a 27-year background of my experience working in various government agencies and at the same time being involved in the private sector for 13 years," Cabrera told *Saipan Tribune* after taking his oath of office.

"There are certain policies and procedures that I can discuss with the board but our main goal is to improve and enhance the programs that are already in place," said Cabrera.

He said the board would look carefully into the recommendation to increase incentives and scholarship awards for student applicants.

"Increasing the incentives…is already on the table. We will look into it since it needs careful study and more talk," he said.

Having background on the issues faced by SHEFA would also help the board plan its programs.

"I'm confident that I can contribute a lot to the SHEFA board. I have plans that I would like to share with them. The chair and the board will work harder to implement the programs," Cabrera said.

Apatang said he has personally known Cabrera for many years.

"He [Cabrera] is a perfect fit for SHEFA. I've known him for so long and I recognize his work ethic that's why he can work with the board. He has the vision to help the students which he can contribute to the board."

Hofschneider: DPL has a lot of issues to resolve

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Henry Hofschneider, the newly confirmed board member of the Department of Public Lands, said the agency faces a lot of issues that need to be resolved before they could focus their attention on other matters.

The impending expiration of Kan Pacific's lease, the Kan Pacific and Best Sunshine International Ltd. negotiation, and the military buildup on Tinian and their plan to use Pagan for live training are among the topics that they need to address.

"There are a lot of issues concerning DPL right now. There's the Kan Pacific lease, their negotiations with Best Sunshine, and the military coming in," said Hofschneider in an interview by *Saipan Tribune*. "But we must also manage an overall plan for the homestead program for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota."

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang swore in Hofschneider as one of the five members of the DPL advisory board yesterday at the Saipan Mayor's Office in Chalan Laulau. He will join William Torres (Northern Islands), David Evangelista (Tinian), Antonio Quitugua (Rota), and one appointed by the governor who has yet to be named on the DPL board.

The board, Hofschneider said, acts as the conscience of the DPL secretary but can only make recommendations. "The decision still lies with the secretary but one person could not deal with everything on his own."

Former Washington representative Pete A. Tenorio is the DPL secretary but he is currently on leave. Patricia Rasa is acting DPL secretary.

Hofschneider said the board would also make an inventory of available public lands, especially since there are a lot of projects in the pipeline and new investors coming in.

"We could not lease public lands to just anybody without going through the entire process. The advisory board will be working closely with the DPL secretary regarding this," Hofschneider said.

"There are a lot of opportunities knocking on our door everyday, which is good for the CNMI," he said, "but we must screen everything and come up with ideas before the secretary makes the final decision. That's why the advisory board and the secretary must work closely together."

Apatang appointed Hofschneider, who is also the special assistant to the Saipan mayor, to the board, citing his vast knowledge in dealing with public lands.

Float parade on Saturday

The Parade of Floats will kick off tomorrow's festivities of the Christmas in the Marianas Festival, with more than 20 floats expected to join the celebration. The parade will start between 5pm to 6pm at the Garapan Fishing Base and end at the American Memorial Park.

Organizers are asking participating schools to put in their best float since a total of $4,400 in prize money will be given away. Other members of the community are also encouraged to join but will not be part of the competition.

A biker Santa and the Matua riders will lead the parade, together with fire trucks, other government agencies, and various organizations. All participants are requested to be at the Fishing Base before 5pm.

The CHCC-DPH-NCD and the Saipan Walking Society will be giving away T-shirts during the parade and award $1,000 in prizes to the school with the most participants.

Participants who will join the parade wearing costumes will receive prizes and other fun items from the organizing committee.

The Christmas carol contest resumes at the Paseo de Marianas at 7pm after the parade. Te elementary schools of Koblerville and Oleai, and the Marianas and Saipan Southern high schools will be performing.

The Tourism Oriented Police Section band will be bringing their special brand of music to the festivities.

Winners of the caroling, float parade, Christmas tree, teachers' karaoke, funny costumes, and most spirit will be named where over $30,000 in prizes are at stake. Every participating school will walk away with a prize. ***(Jon Perez)***

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Ogumoro's motion to quash charges is denied once more

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman yesterday denied former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro's motion to reconsider the court's previous order that dismissed five of the eight corruption charges filed against him.

Wiseman ruled that Ogumoro has not met his burden to show that the court is compelled to rule on the merits on his pre-trial motion to dismiss.

"The court does not find good cause to depart from its previous rulings on his statute of limitations defense," the judge said.

In his motion to dismiss, Ogumoro, through counsel Mark B. Hanson and Benjamin Petersburg, objected to the criminal charges contained in the two counts of removal of government property, alleging that prosecution of these misdemeanor charges did not commence within one year under the statute.

Ogumoro also argued that prosecution of the criminal charges in one count of conspiracy to commit theft by deception, and two counts of removal of government property must be dismissed because simultaneous prosecution of these charges violate the Double Jeopardy Clause.

The Double Jeopardy Clause protects an individual against multiple punishments for the same offense.

Last June 23, Wiseman denied the motion to dismiss in its entirety the three charges of misconduct in public office, and two counts of removal of government property.

The three other charges are theft by deception, conspiracy to commit theft by deception, and theft by unlawful taking or disposition.

In the June 23 order, Wiseman noted that the government's prosecution of Ogumoro's case commenced on March 23, 2015, when an arrest was executed.

Ogumoro then sought reconsideration of Wiseman's ruling that his statute of limitations defense was not decided on its merits at the pre-trial stages of the criminal prosecution.

Hanson and Petersburg argued that the court erred in ruling that the statute of limitations is an affirmative defense.

Hanson and Petersburg also argued that contrary to its ruling citing Lundstedt case, the court may segregate the evidence for determining whether the statute of limitations bars prosecution of those counts other than the three counts of the second amended information.

In denying Ogumoro's motion for reconsideration, Wiseman noted that in his Nov. 23 ruling, he cited a precedent case for the proposition that the court may not grant a motion to dismiss on an indictment if the motion is "substantially founded upon and intertwined with evidence concerning the alleged offense."

Wiseman cited two reasons why Ogumoro's argument does not meet the Eguia standard.

In Eguia's case, the CNMI Supreme Court held that the standard for a motion to reconsider in a criminal case is equivalent to Rule 59(e) of the Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure: "an intervening change of controlling law, the availability of new evidence, or the need to correct a clear error or prevent manifest injustice."

First, the judge said, Rule 12(e) of the Commonwealth Rules of Criminal Procedure provides that the court, for good cause, may order that a motion made before trial be deferred for determination on the general issue or until after the verdict, so long as it does not impair a party's right to appeal.

Second, Wiseman said, Ogumoro has not shown that the evidence necessary to determine whether the statute's tolling provision is entirely segregable from the evidence to be introduced at trial.

He said he found that it was necessary for the government to show that Ogumoro was a public official as an element of the charges contained in the three counts of the second amended information.

Assistant attorney general Matthew C. Baisley served as counsel for the government.

A second amended information charged the 57-year-old Ogumoro with eight counts relating to theft by deception, misconduct in public office, conspiracy to commit theft by deception, removal of government property, and theft by unlawful taking.

The second amended information also charged Ogumoro's co-defendant, Herman M. Manglona, with conspiracy to commit theft by deception and receiving stolen property.

The trial will be on March 14, 2016.

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12/06/2015 Sunday Brunch $22 Dinner: A La Carte	12/07/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner Buffet: Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)	12/08/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/09/2015 Buffet Lunch $14 Dinner: A La Carte	12/10/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/11/2015 Buffet Lunch $14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)	12/12/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)
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12/27/2015 Sunday Brunch $22 Dinner: A La Carte	12/28/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/29/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/30/2015 Buffet Lunch $14 Dinner: A La Carte	12/31/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	1/01/2016 New Year Brunch: $25 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)	1/02/2016 New Year Brunch: $25 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)

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From left, Saipan Young Professionals Committee member Jeaniffer Cubangbang, Karidat's Judith Pangelinan, Karidat executive director Lauri Ogumoro, and SYP chair Mable Ayuyu.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SYP donates to Karidat's Christmas Toy Drive

The Saipan Young Professionals Committee recently donated new toys to the Karidat Christmas Toy Drive as their way of giving back to the community, most especially to children in need.

"This past weekend, our committee members and friends celebrated Christmas at our 'Hafa Adai' Christmas party. We thought of teaming up to donate to Karidat. …We're proud to support Karidat's efforts in making a difference in the lives of children throughout the island," said 2015 SYP chair Mable Ayuyu.

Ayuyu was joined by SYP member Jeaniffer Cubangbang in donating the toys to the non-profit organization. Karidat executive director Lauri Ogumoro and Judith Pangelinan accepted the donation on behalf of Karidat.

"This is a beautiful donation made by the Saipan Young Professionals. The children that get these toys will be very fortunate," said Ogumoro.

Karidat's Christmas Toy Drive began in the 1980's and has been an annual program since then.

According to Ogumoro, many organizations used to donate toys to Karidat during the holiday season. "This year was especially hard [for us] because of the recent typhoon that had hit the islands," said Ogumoro. She added that the people who were generally very giving have needs of their own and that the organization understands that this has been a difficult year for everyone.

When asked about her experience in participating with SYP's donation to Karidat, Cubangbang said, "As a parent, I know what joy it brings to see my child receive a gift. There are families still recovering from the Soudelor devastation and may not have the resources to purchase a gift for their child, therefore donating a gift this holiday season is a simple way of making a difference in someone's life."

The Saipan Young Professionals would like to encourage young professionals, business organizations, and community members on island to donate to the Karidat Christmas Toy Drive. The Karidat office will be accepting toy donations until Monday, Dec. 22, at their location in Chalan Piao.

"We'd also like to thank our Saipan Young Professionals Committee members and friends for helping us in making a meaningful difference for children this year," said Ayuyu. ***(SCC)***

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Seven-hour power service outage on Saturday

As crews continue mounting transformers and reconnecting customers across Saipan, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is continuing with the next phase of the restoration by addressing portions of Saipan's power transmission and distribution system less seriously damaged by Typhoon Soudelor.

On Saturday, Dec. 19, CUC line crews will temporarily interrupt power service along the Kiya 4 feeder (including Susupe and Chalan Kanoa) starting at 1pm to replace one deteriorated primary power poles and hardware, and re-sag primary conductors. Work on the repairs is expected to take up to seven hours to complete, at which time power will be restored to the area.

The temporary power outage will also impact water service as all wells in the affected area will be offline. As a result, CUC water customers in the affected area will experience limited water service until the power is restored.

CUC is conducting this series of temporary power interruptions to allow linemen safe access to the primary lines for the replacement of essential power distribution materials, to maximize resources and accomplish restoration goals as quickly as possible.

For more information, visit our website www.cucgov.org or contact the CUC Customer Call Center at 664-4CUC (664-4282). ***(CUC)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Nominations open for Employer Support Freedom Award

The deadline to submit nominations for the 2016 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is on Dec. 31, 2015. Presented by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense office, the Freedom Award is the nation's highest honor presented to civilian employers for exceptional support of their National Guard and Reserve employees. ESGR encourages Guardsmen, Reservists, or family members acting on their behalf, to submit nominations at www.FreedomAward.mil. The Freedom Award ceremony is held in Washington, D.C., for up to 15 deserving employers each year in August. ***(ESGR)***

Military training at FDM, Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force and U.S. Marine Corps will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla today, Dec. 18, from 10am to 4:30am. The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(PR)***

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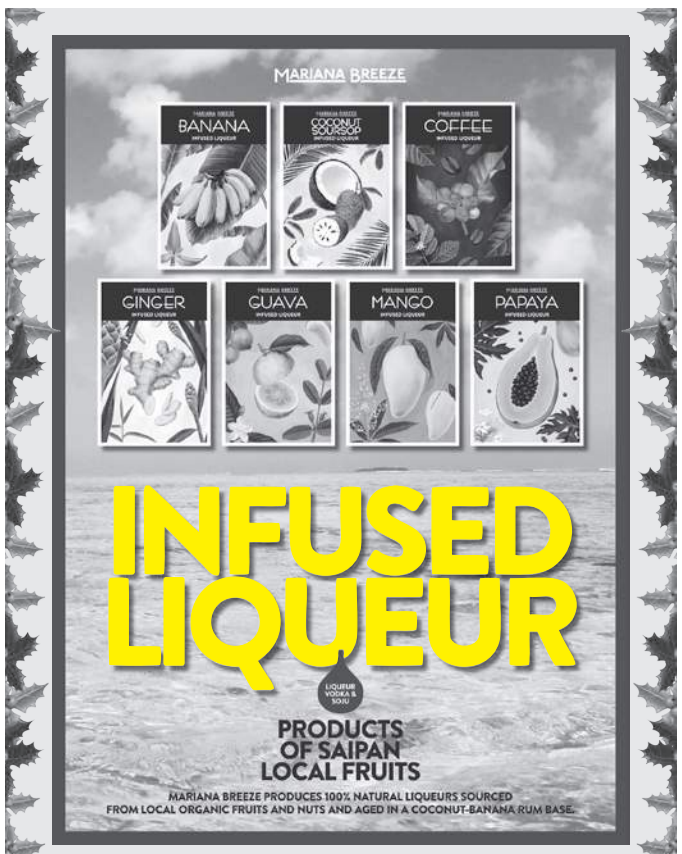

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXV, Issue No. 251

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

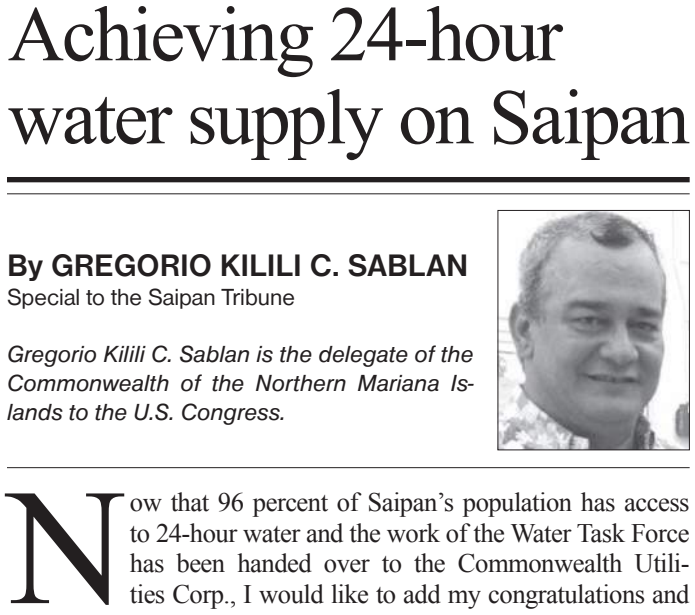
Achieving 24-hour water supply on Saipan

By GREGORIO KILILI C. SABLAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan is the delegate of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to the U.S. Congress.

Now that 96 percent of Saipan's population has access to 24-hour water and the work of the Water Task Force has been handed over to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., I would like to add my congratulations and thanks to everyone responsible. I join the acting governor in his praise of Mr. Pete Sasamoto and his Water Task Force colleagues for a job well done.

Additionally, I want to acknowledge the partnership of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which has been a guiding hand throughout this process. I understand that Saipan was the only major population area in the U.S. without 24-hour water; and Regional Administrator Jared Blumenfeld, Pacific Islands Program Manager John McCarroll, and the staff at EPA's Region IX office in San Francisco partnered with the congressional office and we made it our mission to fix that.


U.S. Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water SRF Grants
Saving CUC customers
$58.1 million since 2009
"...the achievement of having the public water supply system provide
24 hour service to 95 percent of its population...
is a result of the increase in SRF funding...."
— EPA
$12,000,000
$10,000,000
$8,000,000
$6,000,000
$4,000,000
$2,000,000
2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 ARRA 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 (est.)

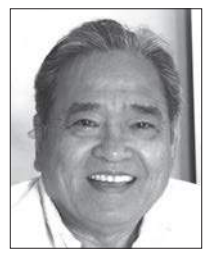
Achieving 24-hour water would not have been possible without a substantial increase in funding beginning in 2009. As EPA reported in its review of Consolidated Grants program accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2014, "the achievement of having the public water supply system provide 24 hour service to 95 percent of its population… [is] a result of the increase in [State Revolving Fund] funding …."

Before 2009 the Commonwealth was getting about $1 million annually from the Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act State Revolving Fund grants that Congress provides. Beginning with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in 2009 and in every fiscal year from 2010 to today, annual funding has always exceeded $6 million—a 619 percent increase over pre-2009 levels

See WATER on Page 15

Mianzi, mentsu, chemyon

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

What Sinosphere has in common is a vertical social organization where social status counts on behavior and achievement. Thus, each of the cultures has a constant built-in perspective and social behavior to maintain and enhance "face".

China has *"mianzi",* Japan, *"mentsu",* and Korea, *"chemyon".* All three represents the same phenomenon of being concerned with one›s social standing in society through social reputation. A child taking the University entrance exam in China, Japan and Korea do not do so to simply qualify for College. The student performs for the family›s name and social standing, and not getting a high grade is an insult to the family name. Parents, thus, spend everything just so their student gets all the elbowroom ze needs to pass the test. Those who fail sometimes get suicidal, seldom homicidal, to oblivion in despair.

At the recently concluded *gaokao* held in Shenyang that determines entry to University, parents from out of town accompanied their pampered child to the test and were billeted in one of my University's buildings as a sign of the school's support to the families. The taking of the test and the result are measures of social standings, a very grave clan event, before, during, and after.

There are comparable practices in other Oriental places. *"Mukha"* is the equivalent in the Philippines, though less stringent but equally popular to its counterparts in the rest of Asia. Pinas worries about what people say *(ano na lang ang sasabihin nila)* rather than the truth, or what is real or authentic. A shameless person is often referred to as one without face *('alang mukha).* Though unfamiliar with the words used, the same allegedly holds true in Indonesia and Malaysia, as well as the rest of Austronesia, south and southwest Asia, and the Pacific islands.

China, Japan and Korea are, however, inextricably caught in a perpetual "face" game, but with a difference from western image. The practice ensures that the face of the other is never tarnished when one cares to further the cause of one's own face. This is opposite to the western notion of looking after #1 where competition leaves others behind. The Sinosphere face game carefully avoids diminishing the outward reputation of another. There is deference, a "subordinate" understanding.

Inversely, there is the incidence of always doing something for the other, particularly to revered ones like elders. It is not uncommon for the younger ones to just go ahead a do something on behalf of elders without asking them first if they want something done for them, experienced as oppressive.

In the west, where children are trained to do things themselves, it offensive for someone to do something one normally does just because a person feels it their duty and obligation to be helpful. More so if the doers proudly think of themselves to be below a recipient's station, thereby, gets a derivative status from being helpful.

Truth is often sacrificed at the altar of face, the worst consequence of the "face" game. Social status becomes the be-all and the end-all regardless of what is real. Authenticity is shelved; reality is shrouded with incense. Delusions of grandeur get the *Amen!*

In China, *Mianzi* is physical before it is figurative. It refers to social face though *lien,* the new form, connotes shame and self-blame when lost, while the former is conferred. Related to the prestige of face are those of good relations and extended favors; the practice spills over into behavior of gift giving to anticipate paybacks to maintain harmonious connection. It deteriorates in bribery, though the distinction between gratitude and influence peddling is a moral judgment.

Mentsu in Japan means politeness. Social face is negatively expressed in the basic claim to hereditary prerogatives, territorial reserves, personal elitism, and assertive rights on freedoms. The positive face claims personality, a projection of self-image approved and accepted by others. Japan is big on self-image, both in its care-filled expression as well as its arrogant appearances. At the door in a crowded Tokyo Metro, it is not uncommon to see one bow to another first before one pushes the other for more space.

Chemyon in Korea is absorbed self-consciously and several elements like ethics, pride, performance, personality, competence, shame and demeanor are at play. Heavily social *chemyon* is also personal. The social tends towards then more negative in competitive settings while the personal one tends to be positive on the cooperative side. In any case, *chemyon* defines relations in the highly stratified structure of Korean society.

Relation with Sinosphere denizens in Saipan is hard to navigate without consideration of social face. Experience with disaster volunteers wanting to learn English was a rude awakening when we ignored the requirements of "face". On the other hand, students quiet down when to told the leave "face" outside the classroom door. We learn.

Holiday fruitcake

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

If yuletide fruitcake can be made of random ingredients, then we can play along, too, and consider some random insights and points today. Here we go:

1) The Pew Research Center has published some interesting information on technology use. While 74 percent of adults report that they own a desktop or laptop computer, 68 percent report owning smartphones. The narrow margin enjoyed by computers won't be around for long, though. Among the younger folks (aged 18 to 29), fully 86 percent report owning smartphones while 78 percent have computers. I guess that we could consider computers as old technology in this sense, since smartphones seem destined to overtake them.

Tablet computers, incidentally, were broken out into a separate category, but they're only at 50 percent for the younger people, 45 percent overall, and their growth rate has slowed substantially.

As for normal ol' computers, the desktops and laptops, they hit a plateau a decade ago, despite the fact that they get cheaper all the time.

Anyway, it seems that smartphones are the wave of the future. My question is: What's next?

2) Don't tell Santa, but I got a gift for myself: The Bose SoundLink Mini Bluetooth speaker. It is miniature indeed, on par with a 16-oz. bottle of soda if the bottle was lying down. Nothing that small is going to fill a concert hall, but it's intended for offices and other small spaces.

Having tried it out, here's what I think: The audio from this thing is utterly impressive.

It lists for $199, but someone found one for $159, so I decided to try it out. I think the reason for the discount is that this model has been supplanted with the SoundLink Mini Bluetooth II, which is also $199. One of the improvements in the newer model is the use of a generic USB charging port, as opposed to the proprietary plug used on the model I got.

As the name indicates, the speaker can be connected to your music player via Bluetooth, but you can also plug a player into it via a standard 3.5-mm audio cable (not included).

The Web, of course, has a lot of information for those who are interested, so the only thing I've really got to say is that the speaker's sound is, to my ears, at least, worth the money.

I'm finally retiring the speakers I bought at Saipan's ComputerLand 17 years ago.

3) According to the American Automobile Association, the upcoming holiday season will see a record number of motorists taking to the wheel, surpassing the 100 million mark for the first time ever. Over 91 percent of holiday travelers will drive, while fewer than 6 percent will fly. Rates for mid-tier hotels ("three diamond" hotels) will average $150 a night.

So, for this year, at least, I guess that gas is cheaper than sleep.

4) In the weird critter category, here's a winner: the water bear, also known as the tardigrade.

From photos, it looks to me like an unholy cross of an armadillo and an ant, but it's so weird that I guess one description is as good as any other description. It typically measures 0.5mm long and it has eight legs and at the ends of those legs are really big (in comparative terms) claws.

As strange as the looks are, it's the biology of the things that are really freaky. Tardigrades evolve by absorbing much of their DNA from other beings, including fungus.

They are perhaps most hardy critters on earth, able to live in super-cold and in super-hot conditions. Since they live all over the place, including in moss and lichen, you can make a hobby out of collecting them.

If anyone in Saipan ever finds a tardigrade, I hope to hear about it.

5) "Aerodynamics are for people who can't build engines." Thus spoke Enzo Ferrari.

6) Speaking of speaking, if you're one of my fellow students in Mandarin Chinese, I'll mention a book that's proven to be very useful. It's *Modern Chinese* (Book 3), by Vivienne Zhang. It is one volume of a four-volume series.

I don't know what's in the other volumes, but Book 3 is comprised of phrases that are well-organized and geared toward life's most common situations. This is practical, hands-on, useful-for-daily-life stuff, as opposed to the stilted textbook fare that never seems to fly outside of the classroom.

My copy cost $9.99 and it's 225 pages. It's the least expensive book in my Chinese collection, but the signal-to-noise ratio is the best of the bunch; it's clean, unpretentious, and pragmatic.

I might write more about it next year, but I didn't want to close out 2015 without bringing it to your attention.

■■■

Having thrown these random ingredients into the mix, I'll drop this concoction into your Christmas stocking and I'll wish you the best of the season.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Restoring Kagman Community Park

Dear Mr. Jesse Palacios, director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation:

I write this letter in support of your intent to request the release of funds under the Community Development Block Grant, Title 1, of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383), as amended, to expand and restore the Kagman Community Park.

Community parks are important in that they provide children opportunities for hands-on learning, promote public health, community engagement, and so forth. Furthermore, the revitalization of the Kagman Community Park will have no adverse environmental impact.

This is a long awaited project, and I fully support the commencement and completion.

For additional comments, you may reach me at my office. Thank you.

Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero
Capital Hill, Saipan

WATER

From Page 14

and a seven-year total of $51.6 million.

I made this increase a priority when I came to office in 2009 and have worked to keep the change in place in every annual appropriation since then. In fact, in the fiscal 2016 appropriation that we expect to see enacted this week there should be an additional $6.5 million, bringing the eight-year total for the Northern Marianas to $58.1 million.

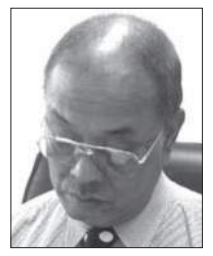
Without this increased funding from Congress, most households on Saipan would still lack 24-hour water. Or CUC ratepayers would have had to cover those millions of dollars in infrastructure upgrades in their water and sewer bills—an additional $40 per month for the average customer.

There are a lot of numbers in this letter, so I have included a graph to show how much funding has improved since 2009.

Due diligence a must

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.



We try to understand issues that are above our heads. Sometime we venture second-guessing our way through subsequent discussion muted, if not, humiliated, for failing due diligence. Perhaps this explains the prevailing disorientation of issues. It seems we're consistently scattered in our views.

Loss of disposition: The cronyism sealed between the NMI and BSI was done at the exclusion of other key players, including the indigenous people. We are dumbfounded by the policy of domination and subordination via projects purportedly "too big to fail."

It is basically neocolonialism in business form where the message is "you're too small and helpless to dispose of our future." We'll do it for you!

A mega project was introduced known as integrated resort, the full plan of which we haven't seen nor has it been shared with the indigenous people. Or do we take it for granted that it's "too big to fail"?

Now there's concern that the mega project may be too big for the outdated basic infrastructure in Garapan. What happens when it moves up north? Do we have CIP funds for emplacement of sufficient water, power, and a new sewer system in Marpi?

The oversight of this issue alone threatens to dampen the anticipated growth of the local economy. It slams new sources of revenue generation that places the fiscal crisis in wider and deeper hole. And it reverts to leadership's lack of vision or foresight in what it takes to instill sturdy wealth and jobs creation. It's a huge patch-up job or agenda like running with buckets to fetch water to put out a huge marshland fire.

Unless we muster the conviction to take back what's ours, it simply means that our future is entirely in the hands of the NMI and BSI. The agenda is simple: gradual dominance and subordination. It means destroying our traditional economy first, followed by turning each of us into servile employees.

Fascinating though why China forced Macau to engage in economic diversification. In other words, it could have casino but must develop other sectors to support it over holding as the mainstay. Does this policy make sense? Why embrace an industry that would render most of our people very poor? Hasn't this happened recently to Native Americans, many of whom are "shockingly poor?" Is there a lesson to draw from this experience before subjecting our people to the same fate?

Unconventional enemy: Let's take the Islamic State and al-Qaida's global agenda on death and destruction against the West. While the Paris and San Bernadino carnage may be distant from the NMI, it should be understood that their strength in numbers (millions) is all over Asia. Have we been eyeing their movements too? Or do we even have a halfway decent intelligence unit assigned solely for this purpose?

Crackdown: China is set to launch a nationwide crackdown on the rampant abuse of the state-backed China UnionPay card payment system, according to a recent story in the *South China Morning Post*. It would require registration of mobile "point of service" transaction across nationwide.

"It is likely to have a significant effect in Macau as insiders say the countrywide crackdown is linked to widespread abuse of the system uncovered in world's biggest casino hub last year.

"Although the tightening by China UnionPay is a nationwide campaign, its effect is expected to be felt hardest in the former Portuguese enclave, where the proliferation of illegal mobile POS devices has been most rampant.

"An industry consultant in Macau said the new tightening measures would undoubtedly have a chilling short-term effect on gaming revenues, but could actually be beneficial for the industry in the longer run."

Container houses

A certain firm was allowed to build a demo-house using shipping containers at the Garapan Fishing Base. It may be well intended but it's an area where no one is allowed to build permanent structures. Where did Skywalker secure its permanent fixture permission and is it leasing the place? If not, who gave the green light that use of the land and permanent fixture are permissible?

Understandably, family homes were destroyed by a superstorm. We're used to picking up the pieces rebuilding by availing of federal assistance combined with what the family pocketbook could pitch in. Is this program linked with the housing program here (NMHC)? If not, is there a reason for its exclusion? I'd like to hear what it has to say in terms of meeting certain federal standards in the construction of strong, safe and sanitary housing.

'I never left.'

An islander wrote a very thoughtful poem about his cultural and traditional affinity to the land and sea. Quite a simple poem but loaded with substance and wisdom.

He said he's dreamt of the past and can never go back. He's planted taro and bananas on the land, and fished in the waters, as did his ancestors.

He pointed out that he can't return to the land and sea that he loves because "I never left." It's a view of our past anchored to our island's cultural tradition. Yes, a lot of changes may have occurred against what's ours, but are fully tethered to our land. We're still here!

What gives the indigenous people here their identity? Citizenship? Is it genetics, social structure, legal system and DNA? Isn't it the land, Our Motherland, upon which we were born? In this context, it would seem to me that everything else is an offshoot.

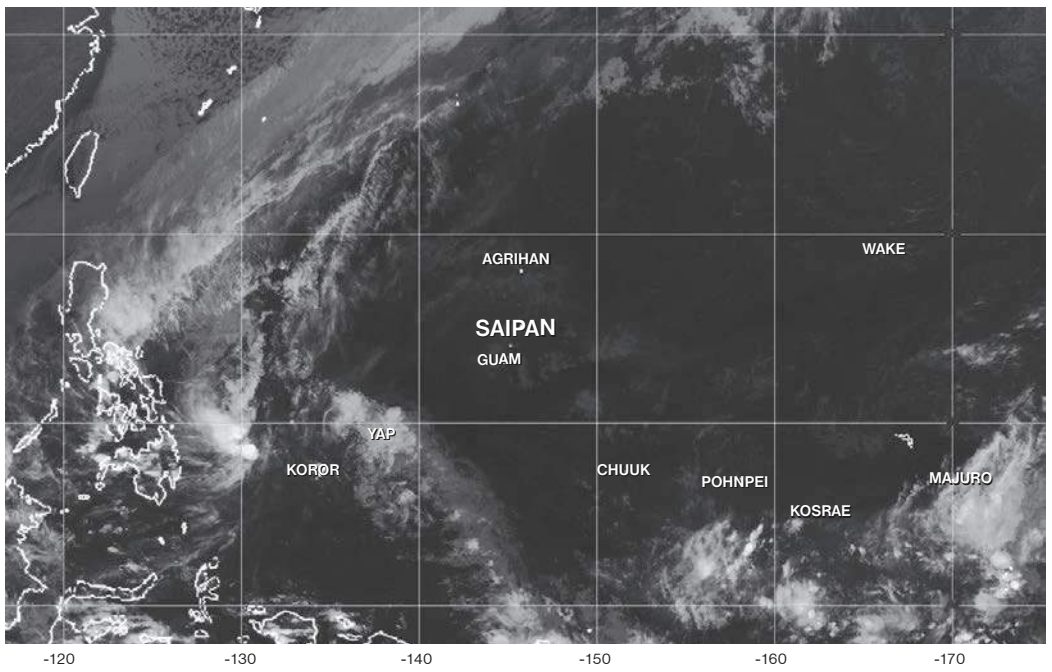
A well-read Filipino writer Montelibano said: "The parent is land and identity, land that is country, land that is home to a people, land that gives nominates the identity of a race. If the land where we were all born, the land where our ancestors were born, had not been the Philippines, there will be another race but no Filipino. Land gives the identity, not the citizenship."

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.
▲88º ▼77º	▲88º ▼77º	▲88º ▼77º	▲86º ▼77º	▲86º ▼77º

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Depression 29W is centered 205 miles west-northwest of Koror near 8N132E moving west-northwest at 9 mph with maximum sustained winds of 30 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring primarily northwest of the center between 11N and 8N from 130E to 132E. For more information on Tropical Depression 29W, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW and advisories by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ32 PGUM. A near-equatorial trough extends southeastward from Tropical Depression 29W to EQ160E then turns east-northeastward to beyond the date line at 3N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found over Yap state within 120 miles of a line from 13N133E to 8N141E to EQ146E farther east. Scattered showers are present south of pohnpei south of a line from 5N156E to 1N164E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are also found south of the Marshall Islands between 7N and the equator from 167E to the date line. A frontal boundary well northwest of the Marianas stretches southwestward from 25N139E to beyond 130E at 19N. Extensive cloud cover and scattered showers are occurring along and up to 450 miles northwest of this feature.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼79
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼79

Around the Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲69	▼58
Beijing	Sunny	▲42	▼23
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲62	▼55
Honolulu	Windy	▲82	▼72
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲56	▼53
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲67	▼46
Manila	Cloudy	▲81	▼74
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲102	▼71
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼75
New York	Rain	▲59	▼50
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲50	▼40
Paris	Cloudy	▲56	▼49
Pusan	Sunny	▲48	▼33
Rome	Sunny	▲60	▼44
Salem	Rain	▲53	▼45
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼48
Seoul	Sunny	▲50	▼38
Tokyo	Sunny	▲50	▼38
Washington, DC	Rain	▲54	▼42

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:21 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
1:18 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
7:55 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:36 AM	5:50 PM
Saturday	6:37 AM	5:51 PM
Sunday	6:37 AM	5:51 PM
Monday	6:38 AM	5:52 PM
Tuesday	6:38 AM	5:52 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:53 AM	
Saturday	12:40 PM	12:11 AM
Sunday	1:26 PM	1:08 AM
Monday	2:14 PM	2:06 AM
Tuesday	3:05 PM	3:04 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 4, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5072/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2924/159	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

COCA-COLA'S 'SHARE HOLIDAY HAPPINESS' PROMO

Top Coke promo winner: 'My daughter is my lucky charm'

"I felt like I was dreaming. I couldn't believe my eyes when I read the text from Coke that I won because I only had one raffle ticket," said Teresita David, winner of the shopping spree in the first drawing of Coca-Cola's "Share Holiday Happiness" promo.

The San Jose Village resident credits her daughter Eliza, 11, for winning.

"Eliza loves Fanta Orange, and she insisted that we purchase a 12-pack for her school party. I would have written her name on the entry form, but she's not yet of age, so I wrote mine instead. But she's the reason I won. My daughter is my lucky charm," David said.

A housekeeping staff at a hotel, David said she's "excited and proud" about her winning.

"The shopping spree was a big help to us—we went shopping for the holidays. We have more raffle coupons now and we'll keep on joining the promo. We're happy that Coca-Cola gives consumers unlimited chances of winning. "

Other major prize winners include Zenaida L. Santos and Winnie Chong, who each brought home restaurant packages; Jude Julian Dickinson, gas vouchers; and Marc Parico and John Concepcion, Subway cash cards.

Korky Aguon has yet to claim her gas vouchers.

Tonight Coca-Cola will hold the second drawing of "Share Holiday Happiness" promo at Joeten Hafa Adai Shopping Center in Garapan from 5pm to 7pm. ***(PR)***

Teresita David, middle, and her daughter Eliza receive her shopping certificate from Ailene Benavidez, assistant operations manager, Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia), Inc. during the awarding of the first drawing winners of Coca-Cola's "Share Holiday Happiness" promotion.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Volunteers sought for storm debris cleanup this Saturday

The Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts will continue with its volunteer storm debris sorting and staging project this Saturday, Dec. 19. This weekend's cleanup will be the last of the year and will focus on San Vicente, with volunteer activities from 9am to 12pm.

Volunteers are needed to assist in sorting storm debris from Typhoon Soudelor in preparation for its removal. Once debris is sorted by the volunteers, debris will be removed and properly disposed of by the CNMI Department of Public Works and the Saipan Mayor's Office. Saturday's cleanup will proceed weather permitting.

Interested volunteers are asked to meet at the San Vicente basketball court at 9am. There they will be assigned to a team leader who will direct their cleanup efforts.

CARE is partnering with United 4 Saipan for this cleanup event. Volunteers are encouraged to wear long pants and closed-toe walking shoes. Water will be provided. For more information, go to www.cnmicare.com. ***(CARE)***

Senior airman from Hawaii dies after collapsing at Guam base

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—The U.S. Air Force community is mourning the death of a 22-year-old senior airman from Hawaii who had been supporting Operation Christmas Drop 2015 when he collapsed following a training exercise.

The Air Force said Tuesday that Senior Airman Jeremy M. Jutba-Hake collapsed Sunday during post-flight duties at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam. He was taken to a hospital and later pronounced dead, The Pacific Daily News reported (http://bit.ly/1OsEEkP).

The cause of his death remains under investigation.

The senior airman had been assigned to the 36th Airlift Squadron, Yokota Air Base, Japan.

"This is a tragic and sad time for Team Yokota and Team Andersen—we lost a true warrior, a wingman, and our friend," said Col. Douglas C. DeLaMater, 374th Airlift Wing commander. "Jeremy was a devoted and passionate airman, always ready to go the extra mile to assist others and perform his absolute best."

Air Force officials said Jutba-Hake had been on duty at the Guam base to support the annual Operation Christmas Drop. This year, Australian, Japanese and U.S. air force planes dropped food and toys on remote atolls in the Pacific as part of the U.S. military's longest-running humanitarian relief mission.

Jutba-Hake joined the Air Force in December 2011. His awards include the Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Small Arms Marksmanship Ribbon, and Air Force Training Ribbon.

"We extend our thoughts and prayers to everyone effected by this sudden and tragic loss of an exceptional airman," said Brig. Gen. Andrew Toth, 36th Wing commander.

Coca-Cola
Share holiday happiness.
Receive an entry form
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Shopping Sprees
Grand Drawing
Joeten Shopping Center, Susupe
Jan. 12, 2016,
from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Second Drawing
Joeten Hafa Adai Shopping Center, Garapan
on Friday, Dec. 18, 2015,
from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
See entry boxes or visit www.kospn.com for Official Promo Rules.
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BSI, Women's Association unite for women empowerment

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Women's Association leaders Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro, Jovie M. Taimanao and Debra Inos are flanked by Best Sunshine CSR representatives.

Organized in early 2010 and officially established on April 13, 2011, the CNMI Women's Association is an organization that strives to empower women for leadership as guardians of our *guinaha* (assets) and a vision to embolden CNMI women to be fully engaged in the political, economic, and social development of the Commonwealth. CWA chair Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro and Best Sunshine director of corporate social responsibility Rita Chong recently held a meeting with the intent to team up and work together on women empowerment endeavors.

Ogumoro said the association was organized in 2010 to bring the women of the CNMI together. Its primary source of funding is from federal grants through the Community Services Block Grant with the Department of Community Culture and Affairs. Its goal is education and training for all women.

Best Sunshine has expressed its full support for CWA's mission. "We believe in women empowerment. The woman is the core of the home and the family. This foundation extends to her significant influences throughout the community. The CNMI Women's Association invited us to join them to actively participate in this collaboration," said Chong.

She adds, "In line with CWA's aim to ensure the full participation of economically disadvantaged women in the development of the CNMI, Best Sunshine is committed in providing women with opportunities. In fact, the company has a large part of women employed in managerial and executive positions. We have plans to assist CWA in every possible way, starting with establishing a functional office, providing labor and manpower, and conducting workshops and seminars on their upcoming annual summit."

Ogumoro said the association is currently planning its 3rd Annual Women's Summit to take place in March 2016.

"Through this summit, we get our women trained and come together to develop their agenda that the CNMI should be focusing on. The agenda will help our organization to focus on the issues we need to collaborate and help all women throughout the three islands," Ogumoro said. "We are very fortunate that we have been able to collaborate with Best Sunshine. One of the things we need to fulfill is a women's center and that's why we came to BSI, to see how they can help because the grant award that we receive cannot fund the renovations of the building.

"We believed in Best Sunshine from the very beginning and we wanted to work closely with them in helping us fulfill the needs of the target population that we are focusing on. I am so proud that we have a lot of women in their organization that are now being employed because one of our main goals was to help women to be employed. We need our women to become decision makers and help women be empowered to be successful in whatever they do in their lives. By working together with Best Sunshine, we can be even more successful."

"This partnering concept must exist and happen. When businesses that come to do business [on] our island partner with the people [on] our island, we will realize success and profit will be made. I am of the position that if we want it and think positively, Best Sunshine can be an industry that can promote the island economically. By working together, we can make this island a very self-sustaining commonwealth. The women will make sure to communicate very closely and assist in those areas to ensure that this industry is successful."

Jovie Taimanao, CWA's vice chair, said: "By partnering with Best Sunshine, it will give us the vehicle to move along and incorporate them within the CWA's priorities."

Program administrator Debra Inos said: "It feels awesome to see women given the opportunity to be able to make a difference in our community. We look at the importance of women and how women are moving along in their livelihood in the CNMI. A lot of the women need to be educated and obtain jobs, so we believe that by partnering with Best Sunshine, we can achieve that goal. We saw the start of Best Sunshine's Human Resources hiring our local women and we believe that it's a good starting point for their business. We are looking to send more women to Best Sunshine, should there be opportunities that we could collaborate in their employment. The CWA does not have a stable women's center, therefore we recognize the need to establish a place for women to freely come in and be involved.

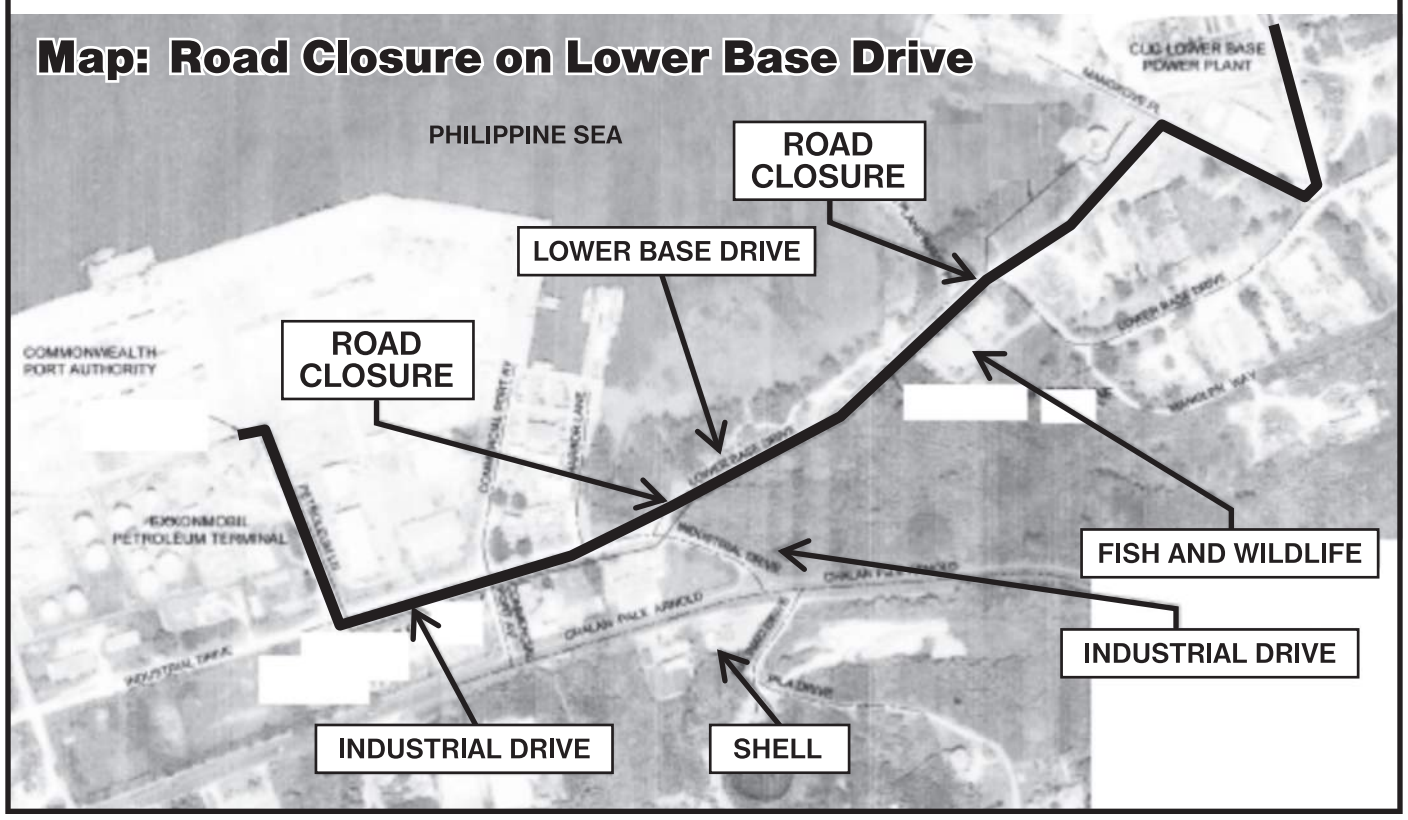
"Financially, the CWA does not have the funds; we sought out support from Best Sunshine to have them work together within their group of women and our group of women to establish a Women's Center.

"When we're thriving in the community with all our success, Best Sunshine will be there next to us in the community as a part of our success." ***(BSI)***

ROAD CLOSURE PUBLIC NOTICE

Lower Base Drive will be closed between Fish and Wildlife and the intersection of Lower Base Drive with Industrial Drive for pipeline installation from Saturday December 19 at 6 a.m. through Sunday December 20 at 10 p.m. See attached Map for areas of closure.

The work is being performed by Gilbane Federal. Contact Eric Yatabe at 670-898-2598 for any questions.



Business

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Fed raises its key interest rate from record low near zero

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve is raising interest rates from record lows set at the depths of the 2008 financial crisis, a shift that heralds modestly higher rates on some loans. The Fed coupled its first rate hike in nine years with a signal that further increases will likely be made slowly as the economy strengthens further and inflation rises from undesirably low levels. Wednesday's action signaled the central bank's belief that the economy has finally regained enough strength 6½ years after the Great Recession ended to withstand modestly higher borrowing rates. "The Fed's decision today reflects our confidence in the U.S. economy," Chair Janet Yellen said at a news conference.

US rate hike ends wait, but not uncertainty for Asia

TOKYO (AP)—The Federal Reserve's rate hike was welcomed in Asia as a sign of strength in the U.S., one of the region's biggest export markets. But it could complicate Chinese efforts to avoid a sharper economic slowdown and keep the yuan steady. The U.S. central bank on Wednesday raised the Federal Funds Rate by a quarter percentage point, the first such increase in nearly a decade. The decision ended a long period of uncertainty about when the Fed would begin winding down the easy money deployed to help heal the economic damage of the 2008 financial crisis. Financial markets had ample time to adjust, yet the long stretch of near-zero interest rates makes the policy change "unprecedented," said economist Masamichi Adachi of JPMorgan in Tokyo.

White House, lawmakers hail year-end deal on spending, taxes

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House and lawmakers of both parties grudgingly embraced a massive government-wide budget deal Wednesday combining more than a trillion dollars in year-end spending with hundreds of billions in tax cuts for businesses, families and special interests of every kind. Leaders planned to push it to final passage by week's end and quickly adjourn for the holidays, ending a tumultuous year on Capitol Hill. The sprawling package will keep federal agencies funded through Sept. 30 of next year, staving off a government shutdown that was to begin next Tuesday at midnight under the latest in a series of short-term spending bills, this one passed by Congress on Wednesday.

US, Cuba reach understanding on restoring commercial flights

HAVANA (AP)—The United States and Cuba have reached an understanding on restoring regularly scheduled commercial flights, Cuban and American officials said Wednesday on the eve of the anniversary of detente between the Cold War foes. The diplomatic advance helps open the way for U.S. airlines to begin flying to Cuba within months in what would be the biggest business deal struck as the two countries try to normalize relations. Officials on both sides described it as an understanding on aviation but not yet a formal agreement and they hoped to reach a formal deal within hours or days.

Clinton says she wants to go beyond 'Buffett rule' on taxes

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—With billionaire investor Warren Buffett looking on, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said Wednesday she wants to raise taxes on the wealthy and expand upon the so-called "Buffett rule" pushed by the Obama administration to raise tax rates on the richest Americans. "I want to go even further, because Warren is 100 percent right, as usual," Clinton said at a rally in Omaha, Nebraska that featured a public endorsement from Buffett, the famed investor and one of the wealthiest people in America. "I want to be the president for the struggling, the striving and the successful."

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Women, Infants, and Children Program

The CNMI WIC Program is looking for the following Interpreter:

Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese)

Requirement Qualifications:

- Fluent in and of the above languages both in oral and written.
- College degree related to the language and culture.
- Minimum 2 years experience as a professional interpreter for any of the above language.
- Basic Computer skills including MS Word, Internet, and Keyboarding.

Please send your resume via email or fax along with the following requirement to juliei@cnmiwic.org. Fax No. (670) 664-4069 or drop it off at the Administrative Building at Upper Navy Hill, Bldg. N25 Mayoria Ave.

- Resume
- Copy of CNMI Driver's License and Passport
- Copy of Business License

Should you have any question, please do not hesitate to call Julie R. Inos at 664-4067, Ruth T. Sablan at 664-4084. Last day of proposal is January 8, 2016 by close of business day.

Thank you!

P.O. Box 502509 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
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AND PORT OF SAIPAN (CPA-IFB-001-16)

INVITATION FOR BID

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of this Invitation for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies and/or corporations to provide Air Conditioning Preventive Maintenance, Service and Repairs at the Saipan International Airport and Port of Saipan.

This IFB is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-50 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (the "NMIC"). Title 40, including Chapter 40-50-205, Invitation for Bid, is applicable to the process followed by the IFB.

The Bid Package is available for pick-up beginning December 18, 2015 from 0800 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. The Bid Package includes the Scope of Work and other considerations upon payment of One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) to be paid at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor of the Departure Terminal Building. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the bid package. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the Saipan International Airport Conference Room, 2nd Floor of the Terminal Departure Building at 10:00 a.m., January 6, 2016, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A walk through of the Airport facility will be afforded to all contractors immediately after the conference, or may be scheduled with Jack Tagabuel' of CPA's Maintenance Department by calling telephone numbers 237-6532 or 483-4516. A subsequent walk through of the Port of Saipan facility will follow on January 7, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.. There are 142 units of air conditioning at the airport and 20 units at the seaport.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Bid for air-conditioning preventive maintenance, service and repairs at the Saipan International Airport and Port of Saipan, CPA-IFB-001-16."** One (1) original and three (3) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than **2 p.m. LOCAL TIME, January 15, 2016,** to the Office of the Executive Director at the aforementioned location.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Procurement, Delivery and Programming of Radio Equipment for the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Department at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
Project No. CPA-SA-002-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies to procure, deliver and program/configure brand new radio equipment for the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Department at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Proposals are to include procurement, installation and programming of frequencies for all new equipment.

The radio equipment shall include the quantities and details as provided in the scope of work and product specifications provided with the scope. The scope and product data are available for pick up at the CPA Administration Office.

The proposals shall include the following:

1. Letter of interest;
2. Team Members;
3. Related past project performance (include commendations or certifications, if available);
4. Available resources to accomplish the project;
5. Cost proposal (in itemized SOW format); and
6. Valid Business License.

The contract period for procurement and installation will be based on the contractor's proposal. However, liquidated damages of $500.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the acceptance date without approved excuse by CPA.

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than 4:30 p.m., **FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016.**

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

The procurement is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals.

All This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40-50-225. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1.	Total cost for equipment procurement, delivery and programming	35%
2.	Experience of the firm on similar or related projects	35%
3.	Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff	20%
4.	Timeframe for delivery and programming	10%

Questions and inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals shall be submitted in writing and may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to Assistant ARFF Chief William Camacho at bcamacho@cpa.gov.mp.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ
Acting Board Chairman /Contracting Officer

Date: December 3, 2015

Nation

Mistrial declared in 1st officer's trial in Freddie Gray case

BALTIMORE (AP)—The first effort to convict an officer in Freddie Gray's death from a broken neck in a Baltimore Police van ended Wednesday with a hung jury and a mistrial.

Officials appealed for calm as small crowds protested along streets lined with police officers. The situation was quiet at North and Pennsylvania, the intersection where the worst rioting happened in April as parts of West Baltimore were set on fire.

William Porter's mistrial is a setback for prosecutors trying to respond to a citizenry frustrated by violent crime and allegations of police misconduct. Homicides have soared and the pressure on city officials has been unrelenting since Baltimore City State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby charged six officers in Gray's death.

About 30 protesters chanting "send those killer cops to jail" outside the courthouse switched gears after the mistrial was announced, chanting "No justice, no peace!" and "Black Lives Matter."

The case hinged not on what Porter did, but what prosecutors said he didn't do. He was accused of failing to get medical help for a critically wounded Gray and was charged with manslaughter, assault, misconduct in office and reckless endangerment, carrying maximum sentences totaling 25 years.

The judge planned to discuss a possible retrial with both sides in his chambers on Thursday.

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake and the new police commissioner she installed after last April's riots warned people against more violence.

"We will not, we cannot be defined by the unrest of the spring," the mayor said.

"Protesters who are lawfully assembled have a friend in the Baltimore Police Department," Commissioner Kevin Davis said. "Folks who choose to commit crimes and break things and hurt people are no longer protesters."

Mosby wouldn't comment: "Gag order," she said, smiling and shaking her head inside the courthouse.

Attorney Billy Murphy, who obtained a $6.4 million settlement for Gray's family from the city before Porter's trial, called the mistrial "a temporary bump on the road to justice."

The racially diverse jury of seven men and five women deliberated for about 16 hours over three days. They indicated they were deadlocked on Tuesday, but Circuit Judge Barry Williams told them to keep at it, even as he denied their requests for help.

Trump says he's been 'a little bit divisive' in GOP race

LOS ANGELES (AP)—One day after a debate clash with Jeb Bush, Donald Trump said he's been "a little bit divisive" and wants to see Republicans come together.

In an appearance on Jimmy Kimmel's late-night show Wednesday, the GOP presidential candidate looked relaxed as Kimmel queried him about campaign issues.

Trump, who has argued for temporarily banning Muslims from entering the United States, said he's gotten calls of thanks from friends who are Muslim.

"Those may have been crank calls," Kimmel replied, smiling.

The ABC host then turned to immigration, using the example of his on-air sidekick, Guillermo Rodriguez, to question Trump's call for mass deportation.

Kimmel said Rodriguez came to the United States illegally from Mexico but went through the legalization process. He suggested to Trump that people who are willing to risk everything to get to the United States are good for the country.

Trump was unfazed, calling Hispanics "unbelievable people" but not backtracking on his position. He called for a Mexico-U.S. border wall with "a big beautiful door" for legal entry.

Kimmel said it appeared Trump had made an effort to be nicer to his fellow candidates in the debate, including lauding Sen. Ted Cruz's temperament after previously calling him a something of a "maniac."

"I would like to see the Republican party come together, and I've been a little bit divisive in the sense of hitting people hard," Trump replied.

That didn't stop him from repeating his characterization of Jeb Bush as low-energy, although he added he was a "nice person."

Bush, well behind front-runner Trump in national polls, said during the debate that the billionaire couldn't insult his way to the presidency and called him a "chaos candidate."

Kimmel ended the interview by sharing a mock children's book, in the style of Dr. Seuss, which he said he'd ghost-written for Trump.

"Here are some frogs I do not like at all. We must kick these frogs out and then build a wall," Kimmel read from one page.

Trump had canceled a previously scheduled appearance on "Jimmy Kimmel Live," but Kimmel didn't make an issue of being stood up.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS for construction of a Brown Tree Snake (BTS) Containment Barrier at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-TA-002-13 will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP, 96950.

All Bids shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Tinian International Airport Brown Tree Snake Containment Barrier Construction, Project No. CPA-TA-002-13 and must be submitted no later than **2:00 PM on MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2015** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to, construction of a 40' x 40' concrete containment barrier, inclusive of masonry work, touch up painting, electrical connection to existing panel, lighting and power, bituminous pavement, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). The Contract award, if it is made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days of the receipt of Bid Proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold such Bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of Bid opening.

The Contract period for construction of the Project in its entirety shall be one hundred twenty (120) calendar days. Liquidated damages in the amount of one hundred fifty dollars ($150.00) shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day completion of the Project is delayed beyond the Contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low Bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." The review will include, but is not necessarily limited to, previous projects experience, financial capability, quantity and quality of equipment and personnel, and ability to secure bonding and insurance. If the apparent low Bidder is found to be not "responsive and responsible", their Bid will be rejected and the next lowest Bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the Project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by CNMI Law or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract. A copy of the CNMI Minimum Wage Rate Determination is included in the General Provisions, Section 70-25.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the Specifications. Bid Proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority office at no cost.

Each Bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the Bid Proposal documents, with submission of their Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, including Drawings and Specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon payment of **ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($100.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form, including the Bid Schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. Postal money order made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Tinian International Airport, at **10:00 AM. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2015** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this Project. Attendance of the Pre-Bid Conference is mandatory. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference date.

Bid Proposals shall be submitted on the Bid Proposal form included in the CD-Rom obtained from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all Bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding Bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the Bid Schedule or mis-entry of the quantity of line items; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the Project Contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said Bids if, in its sole opinion, to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed Contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the Regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

Each Bidder must supply all information required by the Bid documents and Specifications.

A Contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the Specifications. To be eligible for award, each Bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit Bids in response to this Invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, in consideration for an award of any Contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each Bid shall be accompanied by either a Bid Bond issued by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, Certified Check, or a Cashier's Check in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the Bid amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed Contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ JOSE F. LIFOIFOI
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: November 20, 2015

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CBP/TSA IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-001-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the project onsite assessment and survey and preparation of design with plans and specifications to include construction of processing booths, office and restroom improvements and expansion of the Federal Inspection Services (FIS) area, installation of counters and in-line baggage system for TSA processing and operations, including office space, inspections areas, and other miscellaneous work to complete the project at the Tinian International Airport, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, December 11, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island – (25 points);
2. A/E Design experience related to airport projects – (25 points);
3. Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA and AIP grants – (15 points);
4. The general reputation of the Consultant in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the Consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);
5. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time - (10 points); and
6. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, DECEMBER 28, 2015.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all travel costs and taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:

Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ **JOSE R. LIFOIFOI**
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: November 20, 2015

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a Regular Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Wednesday December 23, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the MVA Conference Room, San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Adoption of Agenda
   4. Adoption of Minutes – October 27, 2015
2) **Public Comments**
3) **Committee Reports**
   1. Finance
   2. Personnel
4) **Old Business**
   1. Email Poll Ratification
      a. Local Public Relations and Media Services
   2. Adoption of FY 2016 Budget
   3. Adoption of FY 2015 Unencumbered Balance
   4. Uncollectable Accounts
   5. FY 2016 Tourist Exit Survey Renewal
5) **New Business**
   1. Offshore Representative Office Procurement
   2. Legal Services
   3. XTERRA Saipan Championship
   4. MVA 40th Anniversary
   5. PATA Micronesia Chapter Meeting
6) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
7) **Executive Session**
8) **Adjournment**

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chair, MVA Board of Directors

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY CHANCERY DIVISION – FAMIY PART OCEAN COUNTY

DIONESIA M. KING, PLAINTIFF, VS. JAY A. CAMACHO, DEFENDANT — DOCKET NO. FM-15-975-155 — CIVIL ACTION — SUMMONS

FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO THE DEFENDANT NAMED ABOVE:

The Plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit against you in the Superior Court of New Jersey. The complaint attached to this summons states the basis for this lawsuit. If you dispute this complaint, you or your attorney must file either (1) written answer or (2) a general appearance in accordance with R. 5:4-3(a) and proof of service with the deputy clerk of the Superior Court, Ocean County, located at 120 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, New Jersey 08753 within 35 days from the date you received this summons, not counting the date your receive it. A filing fee of $175 (no children)/ $200 (chil/ren) **(circle one)** payable to the clerk of the Superior Court must accompany your answer or motion or appearance when it is filed.

You must also send a copy of your answer or motion to the Plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address appear above. A telephone call will not protect your rights. You must file and serve a written answer or motion (with fee and completed Case Information Statement) if you want the Court to consider your answer or motion.

If you do not file and serve a written answer or motion within 35 days, the court may enter a judgement against you for the relief the Plaintiff demands, plus interest and money, wages, or property to pay all or part of the judgement.

If you cannot afford an attorney, you may call the Legal Services office in the county where you live or the Legal Services of New Jersey statewide, toll-free hotline at 1-888-LSNJ-LAW (1-888-576-5529). A list of Legal Services offices is attached to this form. If you do not have an attorney and are not eligible for free legal assistance, you may obtain a referral to an attorney by calling one of the Lawyer Referral Services. A list of these numbers is also provided.

/s/ Michelle M. Smith, Esq.
Clerk of Superior Court

CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 502607 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-1615
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner Linda Koshiro

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF TETSUO KOSHIRO, Deceased. — CIVIL ACTION NO. 15-0150 — AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF APPOINTMENT OF CO-ADMINISTRATRICES — Date: January 26, 2016 — Time: 1:30 p.m. — Judge: David A. Wiseman

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE TETSUO KOSHIRO OR HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **Linda Koshiro** has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Tetsuo Koshiro, the deceased, and to appoint Linda Koshiro and Esther Koshiro as Co-Administratrices. The attorney for Petitioner is **Charity R. Hodson, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950.**

The hearing on the Petition by Linda Koshiro, as Petitioner, is scheduled to be heard on **January 26, 2016, at 1:30 p.m.** at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be baited. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **CHARITY R. HODSON, Attorney at Law, at the address hereinabove indicated.**

Dated this 3rd day of December, 2015.

/s/_____
Clerk of Court
Deputy Clerk of Court

World

Russian airstrikes restore Syrian military balance of power

BEIRUT (AP)—Weeks of Russian airstrikes in Syria appear to have restored enough momentum to the government side to convince President Bashar Assad's foes and the world community that even if he doesn't win the war he cannot quickly be removed by force.

That realization, combined with the growing sense that the world's No. 1 priority is the destruction of the Islamic State group, has led many to acknowledge that however unpalatable his conduct of the war, Assad will have to be tolerated for at least some time further.

The most dramatic sign of that came Tuesday with the statement by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry that Assad's future will be determined by the Syrian people, suggesting in the clearest way yet that he can stay on for now and be part of a transition.

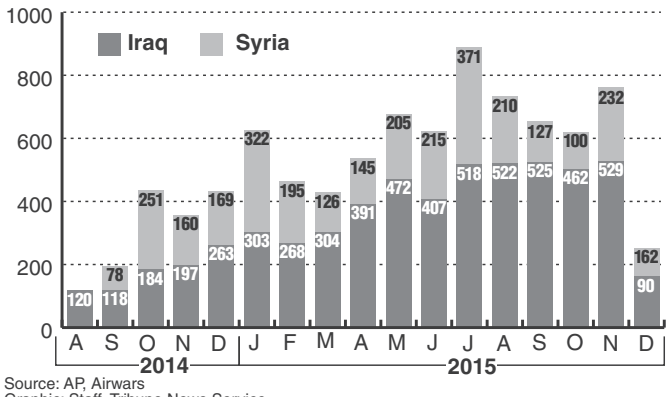
That statement—less a reversal than the culmination of a rethink that had been underway for months—was doubly piquant coming in Moscow, where Kerry was discussing the Syria question with Russian officials.

"The Russians with their military intervention have basically said you can refuse to talk to Bashar Assad, but that means that you won't get a political solution," said Yezid Sayigh, a senior associate at the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut. "If you do want that, then you have to deal with this man."

Airstrikes in Iraq and Syria

According to a report by the independent monitoring group Airwars, 8,834 airstrikes have been launched targeting Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria, killing an estimated 23,000 Islamic State militants.

Total number of strikes per month *(Aug. 2014 – Oct. 2015)*



Source: AP, Airwars
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

US $1.83 billion arms sales for Taiwan draws China's ire

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration announced a $1.83 billion arms sale to Taiwan on Wednesday, drawing an immediate rebuke and threats of retaliation from Taipei's rival Beijing.

The arms package is the first offered by the U.S. to the self-governing island in four years. Even before its announcement, Beijing, which regards Taiwan as part of its territory, demanded it be scrapped to avoid harming relations across the Taiwan Strait and between China and the U.S.

That was followed by a formal diplomatic protest late Wednesday, although at a lower level than in previous such instances.

"China resolutely opposes the sale of weapons to Taiwan by the U.S.," Vice Foreign Minister Zheng Zeguang said in a meeting with Washington's second-highest ranking diplomat in Beijing.

"In order to safeguard the nation's interests, the Chinese side has decided to take necessary measures, including the imposition of sanctions against companies participating in the arms sale to Taiwan," Zheng said, according to a statement posted on the ministry's website.

Such sanctions have been threatened in the past, although there's no evidence they've had any meaningful effect.

Spanish PM punched hard in head at campaign appearance

MADRID (AP)—A young man punched Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy hard in the head Wednesday evening after managing to get next to him at a campaign appearance in the northern city where Rajoy grew up.

The unidentified attacker was standing next to Rajoy on a street in the city of Pontevedra in the Galicia region while he talked to a crowd, then pulled his arm back and delivered a punishing left hook to Rajoy's left check.

Video on Spanish TV showed Rajoy falling toward the ground from the impact but being propped up by others around him.

Spanish media reported that Rajoy's attacker was 17. Video showed him being detained by security guards and then taken in handcuffs from a building, raising his hands and thumbs into the air in an apparent victory sign.

Rajoy's face was bruised in photos of him after the attack but he did not appear to be seriously injured, though Spanish media said his glasses were knocked to the ground and crushed.

Rajoy later appeared, smiling but without his glasses, at a campaign appearance in the nearby city of A Coruna.

WANTED

NEWS REPORTER

The *Saipan Tribune* is looking for a FULL-TIME news reporter.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Above average writing skills and can work within deadlines;
- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player;
- Computer literate;
- With photography skills;
- Must have reliable means of transportation.

If you have what it takes to be part of a dynamic team, email your résumé and samples of your work to editor@saipantribune.com. You may also drop it off at the *Saipan Tribune* office on the second floor of the JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. ON-ISLAND HIRES PREFERRED.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.
Qualified women, minorities, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

INVITATION TO BID
NMHC IFB 2016-001

This ad is paid for with HUD funds.

Oleai Sports Complex Track and Field Renovation

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, through the Northern Mariana Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested, licensed companies to provide Construction Services for the **Renovation of the Oleai Sports Complex Track and Field** in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island.

Prospective Bidders or firms may pick up a set of the Project Package beginning **Wednesday, December 9, 2015** at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI and austerity holidays. E-mail of the Project Package set will be allowed and a non-refundable payment is required. A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars ($50.00) is required for each set**. Payment shall be by cash, credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidders are also advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act. All wage rates for laborers, mechanics and all other employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage or the wage determination for the Commonwealth as specified in CM130001 for the Mariana Islands.

A **mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held at **10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 23, 2015,** at the NMHC Conference Room in Garapan, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as part of the mandatory pre-bid conference for the prospective bidders to familiarize themselves with the required work. Attendance at this pre-bid conference and site visit are considered essential to the prospective bidders' understanding of the project elements and a prospective bidder or company that does not have a representative in attendance at the mandatory pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

All inquires shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 234-6866. Inquires must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. local time, December 28, 2015.

Sealed Bids must be marked **NMHC IFB 2016-001**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Drive, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, Friday, January 8, 2016.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00a.m., local time, January 8, 2016 and must be the transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S Postal Service or the official government postal service no later than **Friday, January 8, 2016** and the ITB documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Drive no later than **Tuesday, January 19, 2016.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicity opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. ,local time, Wednesday, January 20, 2016.** However if no noticed of intent to bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m., local time, Friday, January 8, 2016.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00), a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check. Surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable le to the Attorney General.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the lowest CNMI Procurement Regulations NMIAC Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract price. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Fifty (150) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (US$125.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds provided to the commonwealth. This project is also subject to section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the business that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible".

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be affordable full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

All documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC with the exception of the Bid Bond, Certified Check, or Cashier's Check, which will be returned to the proposers after the acceptance and award of contract to the successful contractor.

The Government reserves the right to reject and all proposals and to waive and defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

For information, contact Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

Edward C. Sablan
NMHC Board Chairman & Contracting Officer

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

Off The Wall

TV station reporting live when Minnesota bank robbed again

ROCHESTER, Minn. (AP)—A television reporter was doing a live update on a Minnesota bank robbery when police say the suspect returned to rob it a second time.

Adam Sallet, a reporter for Mason City, Iowa-based KIMT-TV, was standing outside the Sterling State Bank in Rochester on Tuesday when a bank employee ran out and pointed at the robbery suspect who was leaving the scene.

"That's the robber," Sallet said on the air. "This is live TV folks. That's the robber (who) just went by, according to the bank employee. I got to go here and call 911."

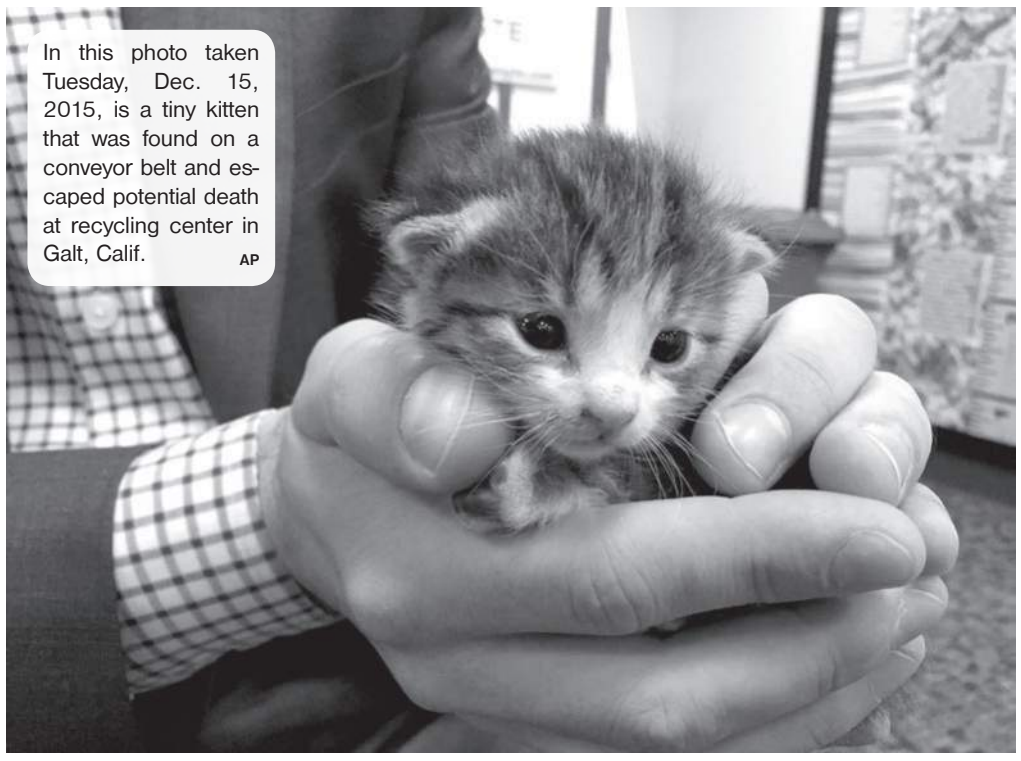
The station returned to anchor Tyler Mickelson, who told the viewers, "I can assure you that was not set up."

Sallet told The Associated Press that with a split second decision before him, he knew he had to dump out of the live shot.

"Once I saw him, I didn't know what to do," Sallet told the AP. "... I decided I'd better be a good citizen and call 911."

Police were able to determine the suspect had left in a vehicle, heading north on U.S. Highway 52. A Rochester police officer and troopers with the Minnesota State Patrol spotted the vehicle, pulled the suspect over and arrested him.

Sallet's interrupted live shot attracted thousands of views on YouTube.



In this photo taken Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2015, is a tiny kitten that was found on a conveyor belt and escaped potential death at recycling center in Galt, Calif. AP

Tiny kitten rescued from conveyor belt at recycling plant

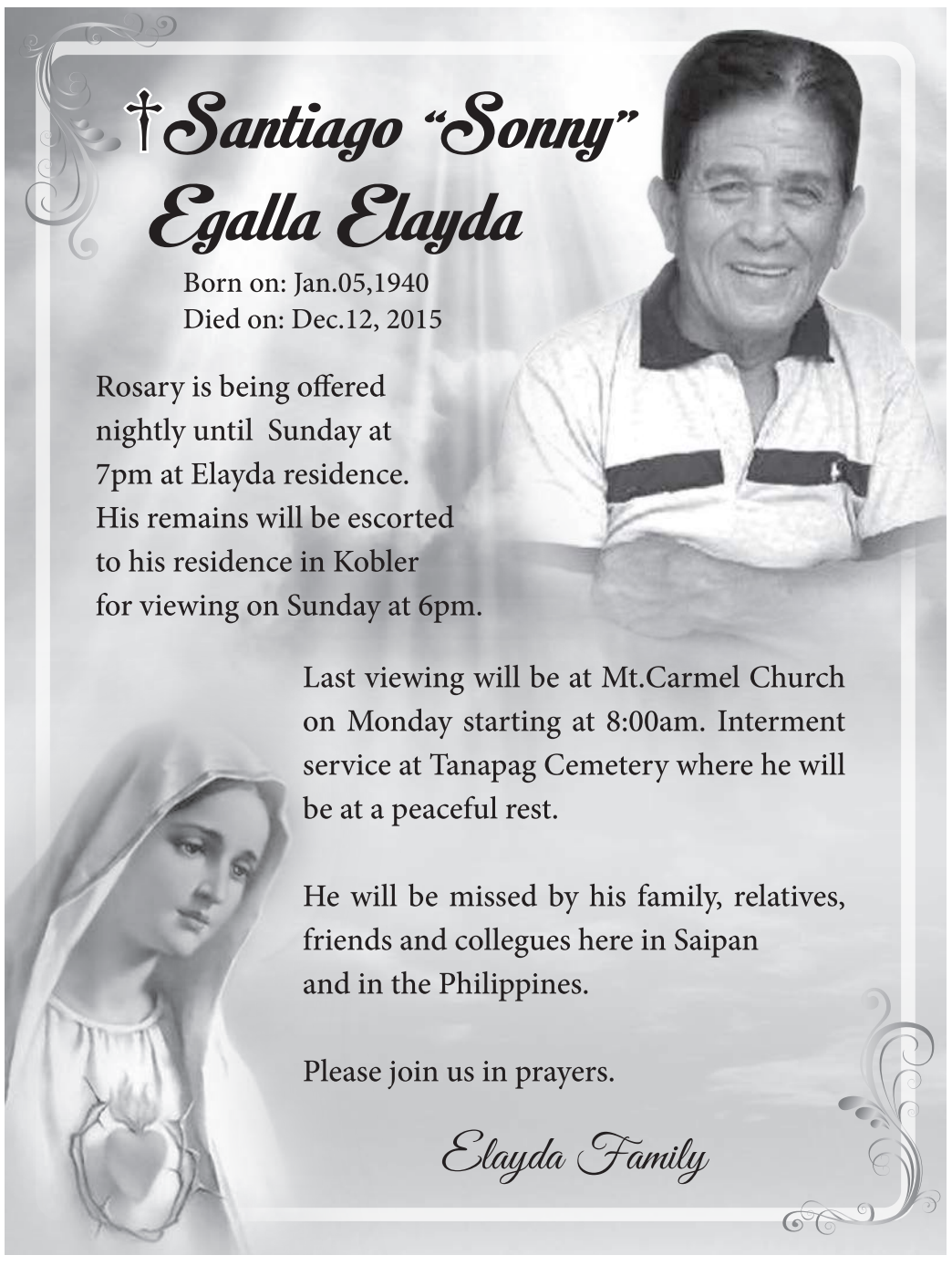
GALT, Calif. (AP)—A worker at a Northern California recycling center saved a tiny kitten from certain death when he spotted the animal heading down a conveyor belt.

Tony Miranda tells television station KCRA that (http://bit.ly/1NTvDoG) he was sorting recyclables Tuesday when he found the pink-nosed, white-pawed cat between the debris and scooped it up.

It's not clear how the kitten got in with the trash, but it may have survived a ride in a dump truck before a tractor pushed it onto one of two conveyer belts.

A call went out to employees of Cal-Waste Recovery Systems that a baby cat had been discovered at the facility in Galt, a city about 90 miles northeast of San Francisco.

Another worker decided to adopt the kitten and named it Murphy.


†Santiago "Sonny"
Egalla Elayda
Born on: Jan.05,1940
Died on: Dec.12, 2015
Rosary is being offered nightly until Sunday at 7pm at Elayda residence.
His remains will be escorted to his residence in Kobler for viewing on Sunday at 6pm.
Last viewing will be at Mt.Carmel Church on Monday starting at 8:00am. Interment service at Tanapag Cemetery where he will be at a peaceful rest.
He will be missed by his family, relatives, friends and collegues here in Saipan and in the Philippines.
Please join us in prayers.
Elayda Family

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Donor pays off $106K in shoppers' layaways at 2 Ohio stores

CLEVELAND (AP)—A man has paid off more than $106,000 in shoppers' layaways at two Wal-Mart stores in northeast Ohio. WEWS-TV in Cleveland reports that the man told Wal-Mart employees that he liked to do something special on his birthday every year. They say he insisted on remaining anonymous. The donor paid off a total of nearly $70,000 for the layaway items at the Steelyard Commons store in Cleveland and about $36,000 for items in Lorain. Items on layaway included toys, 70-inch televisions and even a pair of socks. Tara Neal said she had paid $10 on a bed for her 3-year-old daughter at one of the stores when she was told Tuesday that the remaining balance of more than $80 was paid. She said it was "like Santa."

Probationers found in car with alleged theft 'to-do' list

ENCINITAS, Calif. (AP)—They were making a list but police say it was more naughty than nice. The San Diego Union-Tribune says two probationers who were arrested in a car containing stolen packages Tuesday in Encinitas also had a "to-do" list. On it were the words: "steal mail and shoplift." Their Dodge Charger was stopped after an Amazon.com delivery driver reported someone following his truck and picking up packages he dropped at homes. Authorities say they found five stolen packages, drugs, methamphetamine, heroin, a gun and stolen mail addressed to 13 people. Nineteen-year-old Kristina Green and 38-year-old Gary Withers of San Diego were arrested on suspicion of gun, drug and theft crimes. It's unclear if they have attorneys.

Catholic Diocese finds Utah 'bleeding host' wasn't a miracle

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—The Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City says a bleeding host reported after a communion wafer turned water red was caused by bread mold, not a miracle. Officials said Wednesday that a scientist found the conclusive natural explanation for the wafer that turned water in an ablution bowl a dark red color at Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Kearns. The diocese appointed a committee to investigate after the host that went uneaten on Nov. 8 appeared to bleed after being left unattended for several days. Committee chair Monsignor Francis Mannion says the church sets a high bar for proving a miracle and rules one out if an event has a conclusive natural explanation. He says in a statement that miracles have occurred in the church's history, but false claims undermine its credibility.

'Motherfunder': Samuel L. Jackson stars in Kangol video

LANCASTER, Pa. (AP)—Actor Samuel L. Jackson is starring in a crowdfunding campaign video for the Pennsylvania company that makes the Kangol hats he's known for wearing. In the video, the famously foul-mouthed actor wears a T-shirt that says, "Motherfunder." LNP reports Lancaster County-based Bollman Hat Co. wants to raise $100,000 to go toward moving production of its popular hats from China to its Adamstown headquarters. The move could cost at least $1 million. The company received $160,000 in state grants and tax credits in August. It has already spent $350,000 of its own money. Jackson is one of several celebrities, including Madonna and Brad Pitt, who wear the company's Kangol wool cap called the "504." Bollman president and CEO Don Rongione says Jackson agreed to do the video for free.

Defendant bolts from courtroom, lawyers tackle him in hall

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—An armed robbery suspect who fled a courtroom during trial and escaped the grasp of deputies is back in custody after lawyers tackled him in the courthouse hallway. Surveillance cameras at the Oklahoma County courthouse captured candid video of Israel Pointer's attempt to flee. KWTV-TV reports that the 19-year-old Pointer had just learned his bond was revoked and that he was heading back to jail when he bolted from the courtroom. Cameras show Pointer grappling with and twice escaping jail deputies. Footage from another camera then shows him encountering Oklahoma County district attorney David Prater and several other attorneys, who tackled the young man and pinned him to the ground. Prater equated working in the courthouse with "being in the Wild West."

Man charged after stopping busy Houston freeway to propose

HOUSTON (AP)—A Houston man risks a jail term after he stopped traffic on a busy freeway to propose marriage to his girlfriend. Vidal Valladares was charged Tuesday with obstructing a roadway, a Class B misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail and a fine of up to $2,000. A video of the Sunday stunt posted online shows Valladares on one knee in the middle of Interstate 45, proposing to Michelle Wycoff amid a cacophony of angry shouts and truck and car horns. (She said yes.) Valladares does not have a published telephone number and couldn't be reached for comment.

Woman finds shoplifting suspect in husband's pajamas

DELTONA, Fla. (AP)—Deputies say a wife thought her husband was having an affair when she found a 22-year-old woman wearing his pajamas. Turns out the woman was just hiding from the law. The Volusia County Sheriff's Office said in a news release Monday that Eryn Rice slipped into the couple's Deltona home on Sunday after escaping from a deputy who'd arrested her for shoplifting. They said she washed her clothes, showered and took a nap. The Orlando Sentinel reports when the 73-year-old woman first saw Rice, she thought her husband was cheating on her. The husband was playing golf; when he returned, he swore he'd never seen her before. Not knowing she was on the run, the couple drove Rice home. Later, they contacted authorities, who arrested Rice.

Science & Technology

New crop of coding toys for techie tykes

NEW YORK (AP)—Want even your younger kids to join the tech revolution by learning to code? Maybe you should get them a robot—or at least a video game.

That's the aim of entrepreneurs behind new coding toys for kids as young as 6. They're spurred by a desire to get children interested in computer science well before their opinions about what's cool and what's not start to gel, in effect hoping to turn young boys and girls—especially girls—into tomorrow's geeks.

"You really want kids to learn these building blocks as young as possible and then build on them," Apple CEO Tim Cook said in an interview at a recent coding workshop for third-graders in New York. "I don't think you can start this too young."

Not everyone is excited about pushing first-graders to learn the nuts and bolts of how computers work. Some critics believe that too much technology too early can interfere with a child's natural development; others warn that pushing advanced concepts on younger kids could frustrate them and turn them off computer science completely.

But there's a nationwide push to improve computer literacy in elementary school—and entrepreneurs are jumping aboard. Growing up in India, Vikas Gupta learned to program at a young age and was amazed at what he could do with a basic computer and some software. Now, the father of two wants today's kids to get the same feeling from the coding robots his startup produces.

His company, Wonder Workshop, started shipping Dash and Dot, a pair of small, programmable blue-and-orange robots, late last year. Kids can interact with the devices in a variety of ways. In the most basic, kids draw a path for Dash, which resembles a small, wheeled pyramid made of spheres, on a tablet screen. They can then drag and drop actions onto its path that, for instance, might cause Dash to beep or flash its lights in different colors.

More advanced kids can use Google's kid-oriented Blockly language, or Wonder, the company's own programming language, to create and play games with both robots. The idea is to make building sets of increasingly complex instructions so intuitive and fun that it sparks children's natural curiosity about the way things work.

"It's going to be relevant for whichever profession kids choose in 20 years," Gupta says. "Doctors, architects, anyone; they will need to be able to understand how machines work in order to be really, really good at their jobs."

AP
In this Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2015, file photo, third-grader Jaysean Erby raises his hands as he solves a coding problem as Apple CEO Tim Cook watches from behind during a coding workshop at an Apple Store, in New York.

TECH Q&A

Moving Apple screen images to your TV

By **STEVE ALEXANDER**
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: I read your column about how to transfer a Windows 10 screen image to a Samsung Smart TV (see tinyurl.com/jto844d.) How could I do the same thing with an Apple computer?

A: There are a couple of ways to transfer the view on your Macintosh computer screen to your HDTV, a process called screen mirroring.

To do it Apple's way, you'll need a newer computer and operating system that can handle the AirPlay feature. Macs that can handle the task include the iMac, Mac Mini, MacBook Air or MacBook Pro models from 2011 or later, Mac Pro models from late 2013 onward and MacBook models from earlier this year. Those Macs must use the operating system OS X Mountain Lion version 10.8, or a newer one.

In addition, you'll need an Apple TV device that plugs into your TV's HDMI port, then wirelessly connects to your Mac. The most basic Mac-to-Apple TV connection, which uses a home Wi-Fi network as an intermediary, requires a second-generation or later Apple TV unit.

If you want to link a Mac directly to your HDTV without a Wi-Fi network, you'll need a third-generation Apple TV and a 2012 or newer Mac running the operating system OS X Yosemite version 10.10, or a newer one. For details, see tinyurl.com/nnldkga.

A non-Apple method for screen mirroring involves linking, via a Wi-Fi network, Google's Chrome Web browser on the Mac and Google's Chromecast device that plugs in to your TV's HDMI port. See tinyurl.com/hfpdpoe. For Mac system requirements and a Chrome browser download site, see tinyurl.com/l7w8wdf and click "Mac."

Q: I had Google Earth installed on my Windows 7 PC before I upgraded to Windows 10. Now when I use Google Earth, the screen image is poor at my "start location" and gets worse when I move to other geographic places. In addition, once I close Google Earth, I have to restart the PC in order to open the program again. I tried uninstalling and reinstalling Google Earth, but it didn't help. What should I do?

A: Google Earth is acting as if your Windows 10 computer doesn't have high enough screen resolution (picture sharpness) to display its images. That can be fixed by changing the PC's DPI, or dots per inch, setting for Google Earth. (While screen resolution is often measured by the number of pixels horizontally and vertically, DPI counts just the pixels in a line 1 inch long.)

To alter the DPI setting, use Windows Explorer to find the Google Earth program on your C drive. Right click the Google Earth application folder, select "properties," then choose "compatibility." Under "settings," uncheck the box in front of "disable display scaling on high DPI settings."

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. *Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

In Humble Gratitude

We, the family of the late

†Herman Herbert Sablan Del Rosario

Wish to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to all our friends and relatives who came to be with us during the most difficult time in our lives when we lost our beloved †Herbert. My husband was a very caring father and good provider. Our grandchildren adored him and he is already greatly missed and the emptiness has been felt. Your presence, your thoughts most especially your love and support for us have helped us endure the great pain we have experienced. It is very comforting to know and see the many people who shared these moments with, and for these, we are forever grateful.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Bishop Emeritus Tomas A. Camacho for his prayers, Fr. Ryan P. Jimenez, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, Fr. Romil Aperocho who presided over the Mass of Christian Burial and all the clergy who assisted. Si Yu'us Ma'ase to Fr Rey Rosal for an inspiring homily and to Tan Ko Palacios. Our appreciation to our Techas, Eleanor S. Cruz and Ocha Magofna.
Thank you to the Olomwaay Family Choir, Amber's Choir, DOC Music group for the beautiful serenade during the viewing and most especially to the Saurez Family Choir who graced us with the lovely liturgical music for the Eucharistic celebration.

To All who have helped us in anyway, Un Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

Rose Duenas Del Rosario, Children and Family

Life & Style

Welcome the holidays with classic 'Scrooge' musical

A wonderful Christmas classic for all ages, Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* has proven itself to be one of the best tales to tell every holiday season. This weekend, experience *A Christmas Carol* in a way you've never seen before! The Friends of the Arts present *Scrooge: A magical Musical Readers Theater*!

Witness the glory of Christmas on stage in this captivating and beautiful retelling of Ebenezer Scrooge, the stingiest, meanest, nastiest, and cruelest person in all of mankind! Scrooge absolutely *hates* Christmas, even going as far as to call it a waste of time! One Christmas Eve, however, he is visited by the Spirits of Christmas Past, Present, and Future, all in an effort to show him the true meaning of Christmas before times runs out. Under the direction of Harold Easton and musical direction by Paul Dujua, the characters of the story are brought to life through staged readings of the play accompanied by musical and dance numbers.

"In this particular production, we showcase the music," Easton explains. "The music brings a refreshing experience on the story of Scrooge, surrounding the words with the musical numbers!"

Vivien Viernes, cast and FOA member, invites friends and families "…to spread the Christmas spirit in our community this holiday season!"

Show times for this production will be on Dec. 19 at 7pm and Dec. 20 at 3pm and 7pm. Ticket prices start at $4 for students, $6 for FOA members, and $8 for adults. Bring your family, friends, and even your neighbors in celebration of the Christmas spirit this season! Don't be a bah-humbugger like Mr. Scrooge, come and enjoy this fantastic production! ***(FOA)***

Friends of the Arts board members discuss technical operations for *Scrooge*. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The *Scrooge* chorus (altos and tenors). CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Neil Fama, Miguel Aninon, and Leonard Manuel sing tenor in the production. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Harold Easton and Paul Dujua, directors, read the sheet music for the show's finale. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Paul Dujua, musical director, explains a section of music to the cast. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

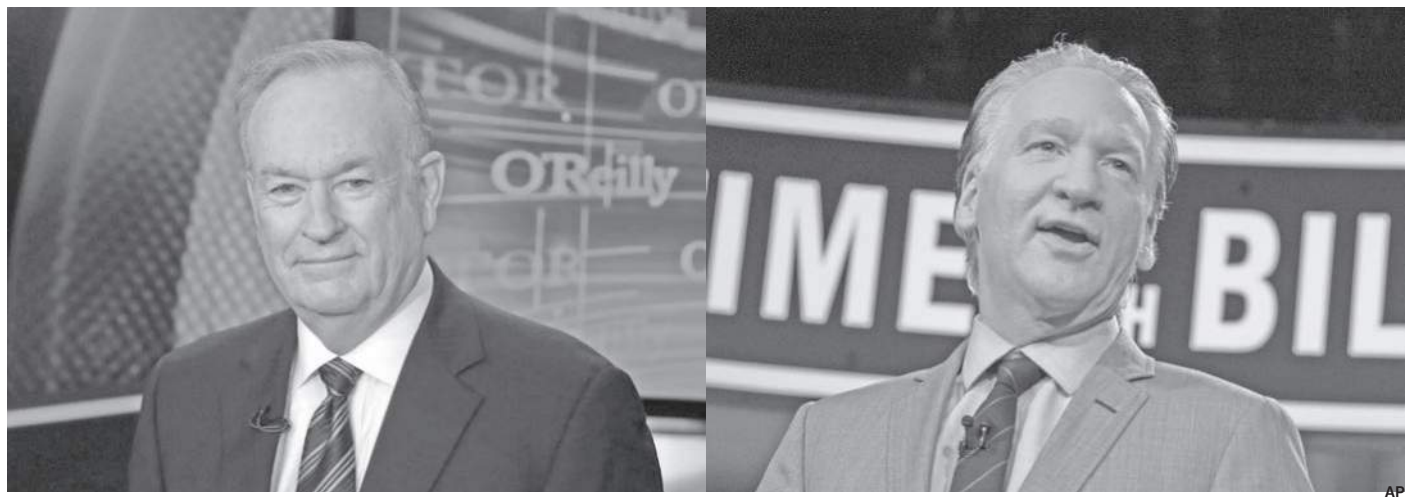
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A shot of the chorus' sopranos, from left, Ann Norcio, Joselle Reyes, Clarisse Torio, Vivien Viernes.

PBS series finds these 2 very unlikely Bills are related

NEW YORK (AP)—The PBS series "Finding Your Roots" has discovered that political television's polar opposite Bills—Maher and O'Reilly—are distant cousins.

The revelation shocks the two men as it seems to tickle the show's host, Harvard University professor Henry Louis Gates Jr. The series, which had been put on hold following revelations that actor Ben Affleck sought to quash news that he had a slave-owning ancestor, begins its third season Jan. 5. The Maher-O'Reilly episode airs a week later.



At left, Bill O'Reilly of the Fox News Channel program "The O'Reilly Factor," poses for photos in New York. At right, file photo provided by HBO, Bill Maher hosts "Real Time with Bill Maher" in Los Angeles.

The pugnacious Fox News Channel host is shown with the series-prepared book of his ancestry in front of him and is told he has a familial tie to another well-known personality.

He turns a page to see a picture of Maher, the liberal host of HBO's "Real Time."

"Oh, geez," he said. "You're going to have to put him on 24-hour medical watch. This ruins his career. This destroys him."

Maher is more measured when he sees the O'Reilly picture in his book.

"It just shows you what a great place America is," he said. "Because we're about as opposite as you can possibly get."

The family ties go back—way back—and were discovered through DNA testing as opposed to a paper trail of a family tree.

Through testing of their Y chromosomes, which are passed through male family lines, both men share a common male ancestor from Kingdom of Breifne in Ireland, which was in place from the 13th through the 17th centuries, said CeCe Moore, the show's DNA consultant.

Separate autosomal DNA testing, which tracks descendants of both sexes, also indicates the men share an ancestor. This testing measures ties that date back about 500 years; the two tests could have spotted the same common ancestor found through the Y chromosome or perhaps they had more than one, she said.

"We're all connected if you go back far enough," Moore said. "These two are a little bit more recent than most of us."

Once the tie was discovered, "putting them in the same show became irresistible," Gates said. Journalist Soledad O'Brien, who discovered a distant connection to late-night talk show host Stephen Colbert, is also featured on the Jan. 12 episode.

The paper trail for both men uncovered interesting descendants. A Maher ancestor was a prominent New York union boss while the first O'Reilly to come to the U.S. escaped the Irish potato famine at age 16 to come to New York and open a saloon.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Eagles of Death Metal announce tour, including Paris date

NEW YORK (AP)—The U.S. rock band Eagles of Death Metal has announced dates for a rescheduled European tour, including a return to Paris. The band was performing at the Bataclan in Paris on Nov. 13 when 130 people were killed in the city. The band will play at the Olympia Theatre in Paris on Feb. 16, 2016. Concertgoers who attended the Bataclan show will earn free tickets to the upcoming Paris show. Jesse Hughes, Eagles of Death Metal's frontman and co-founder, says not returning to finish the band's set was never an option. Says Hughes: "We look forward to coming back in February and continuing our mission to bring rock 'n' roll to the world." The band's The Nos Amis Tour starts Feb. 13, 2016, in Stockholm.

Actor James Woods happy to be alive after Colorado crash

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—Actor James Woods says he's happy to be alive after crashing on an icy highway in Colorado. The accident happened Monday on Interstate 70, where it cuts through the scenic Glenwood Canyon in western Colorado. The stretch of road has steep cliffs on either side. In a series of tweets, Woods said another person driving over 75 mph spun out and that he hit a wall along the highway to avoid that driver. Woods said that after hitting the wall on the other side of the road, he slid backward going 60 mph. He said a guardrail kept his Jeep Grand Cherokee from dropping 100 feet to the Colorado River below. Woods praised the police, firefighters, tow truck drivers and everyone else who helped him. He also apologized for rambling and said he had a "little concussion." On Tuesday, Woods said he was back on the road again.

Cranberries singer O'Riordan admits assaulting Irish police

DUBLIN (AP)—The lead singer of the Irish rock band The Cranberries, Dolores O'Riordan, has pleaded guilty to assaulting three policemen and a flight attendant during an alleged psychotic episode last year. O'Riordan didn't speak during Wednesday's court hearing in western Ireland. Her lawyer said she accepted evidence of the assault and obstruction charges facing her. Judge Patrick Durcan ordered the singer to write letters of apology to those she attacked. Durcan said he would sentence her early next year. She faces possible penalties ranging from a cash fine to six months' imprisonment. A cabin attendant testified that O'Riordan stomped on her ankle as the Aer Lingus flight from New York landed in Shannon, Ireland, in November 2014. Police said she spat in their faces, head-butted one and kicked the others.

FX says scripted shows hit record 409 in US this year

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Maybe there is too much TV. FX Networks said Wednesday that it counted 409 scripted shows that aired in the U.S. in 2015, nearly double the number from six years ago. That means a lot of competition for viewers, on traditional TV and online. FX Networks CEO John Landgraf startled Hollywood earlier this year when he declared that there is "simply too much television." He said that this year or next would mark the peak. FX counts scripted shows on broadcast channels like CBS, cable networks like AMC, premium networks like HBO and online operators such as Netflix. The total doesn't include reality shows, news programs, sports events, made-for-TV movies, specials, daytime dramas or children's shows. FX found 376 scripted shows last year. There were just 211 in 2009.

'Star Wars: The Force Awakens' makes AFI's top movie list

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The American Film Institute on Wednesday selected "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" as one of the best films of the year.

The popcorn space epic was in good company alongside some of the year's most promising awards contenders including "Spotlight," ''Mad Max: Fury Road" and "Carol." What this means for the larger awards potential for "Star Wars" remains to be seen.

Other honorees in the film category included "The Big Short," ''Bridge of Spies," ''Inside Out," ''The Martian," ''Room" and "Straight Outta Compton."

AFI also recognized 10 television programs as the best of the year, including "The Americans," ''Better Call Saul," ''Black-ish," ''Empire," ''Fargo," ''Game of Thrones," ''Homeland," ''Master of None," ''Mr. Robot" and "UnREAL."

The honorees will be recognized in person at a private luncheon in January.

Rocky marriage is back on, but money keeps couple apart

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married three years. It has been rocky since year two. She's a great mother to our kids, especially the one who is medically challenged. We have broken up twice so far, and are now back together. However, because of my job, we live in different states.

Bottom line: I'm no longer sure this is the right relationship for me. She goes to school full time while I work a ton of overtime to support two households. We hardly see or spend time with each other. She has said she would rather me work and not see me so that everything gets paid. I feel she's more about the money than the marriage. What do you think?

UNHAPPILY MARRIED IN BALTIMORE

DEAR UNHAPPILY: You and your wife both appear to be carrying a heavy load. For the sake of your children, it would be nice if your marriage could be resuscitated. However, not every marriage can be—and the arrangement you have now is clearly not working for you.

If your wife actually feels that she would rather not see you so that everything gets paid, then I think she has made her feelings clear. The marriage no longer exists; it's a financial arrangement. For that, you both have my sympathy.

DEAR ABBY: Why does it feel awkward for me to call my husband by his first name? When I say his name from another room to get his attention, it only feels natural for me to call him "Babe."

When I'm talking about him to someone else, I use his name, but it still makes me cringe. It's a perfectly normal, common name, so I don't know why it makes me so uncomfortable. And this doesn't just apply to my husband. Before him, I was in a six-year relationship with my high school sweetheart and had the same problem.

Why can I only call my significant others "Babe" when talking to them?

HUBBY'S NAME IS _____

DEAR HUBBY'S NAME: When couples become intimately involved, it is common for them to use pet names with each other. That you call your husband and your former boyfriend by the SAME name is interesting. Could it be that subconsciously you are/were afraid that if you don't use the same pet name, you will absentmindedly use the wrong one?

DEAR ABBY: My cousin and I have season tickets for the Broadway series at our local theater. Our problem is two women who sit next to us in the box. After intermission, when the second act starts, they talk loudly to each other as long as 10 minutes into the show. I want to say something, but I don't want to cause any negativity or bad feelings because we will see them at each show. How should I deal with it?

AUDIENCE MEMBER

DEAR MEMBER: Here's how: When the women continue their conversation after the curtain rises, you say to the one nearest you, "Please be quiet. We can't hear the performance." That's not rude; it's being assertive. If they persist after that, complain to the management and ask that, if possible, in the future you be seated apart from the magpies.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

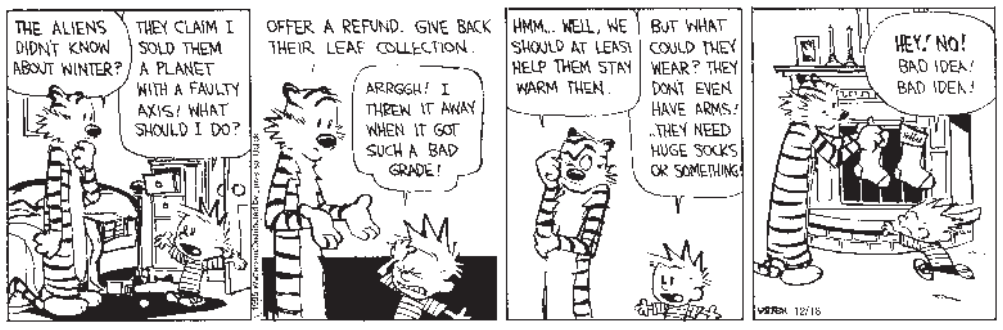
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

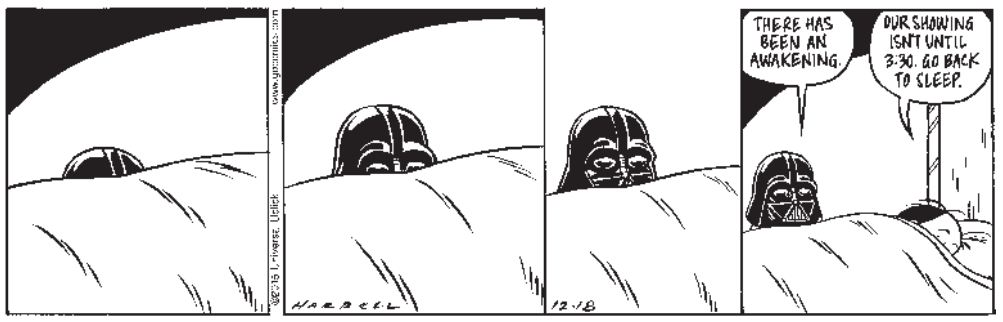

THE ALIENS DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT WINTER?
THEY CLAIM I SOLD THEM A PLANET WITH A FAULTY AXIS! WHAT SHOULD I DO?
OFFER A REFUND. GIVE BACK THEIR LEAF COLLECTION.
ARRGGH! I THREW IT AWAY WHEN IT GOT SUCH A BAD GRADE!
HMM... WELL, WE SHOULD AT LEAST HELP THEM STAY WARM THEN.
BUT WHAT COULD THEY WEAR? THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE ARMS! ..THEY NEED HUGE SOCKS OR SOMETHING!
HEY! NO! BAD IDEA! BAD IDEA!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

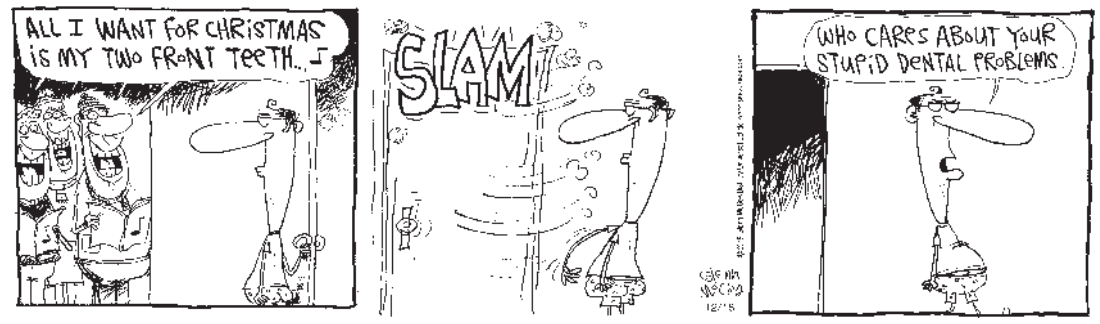
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

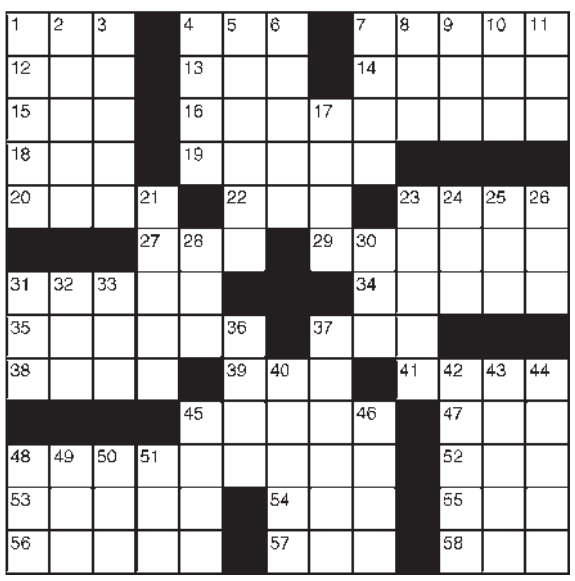
ACROSS
1 Carried out
4 NYC opera, with "The"
7 Fissures
12 Put — show
13 Mined matter
14 Round trip?
15 Ask for payment
16 2011 Lady Ante-bellum hit
18 Surgery ctrs.
19 Selected, with "for"
20 Appear
22 LAX screener
23 Pants line
27 Decade pts.
29 "Constant Craving" singer
31 "Bum-mer!"
34 Mythic man-goat
35 O.K. place?
37 "Cake Boss" airer
38 His and —
39 "I'm not eating that!"
41 Make mittens
45 Beam material
47 Black bird
48 Buss station?
52 Nonstick spray
53 Ski lodge drink
54 Prefix with angle
55 Stately tree
56 Going to court
57 Cries of despair
58 Wily

DOWN
1 Extinct birds
2 Get used (to)
3 "— Macabre"
4 Magic charm
5 Lets off steam
6 Lab works
7 Pike
8 Grate on
9 Hoover's org.
10 "— the season ..."
11 Holy ones (Abbr.)
17 Yacht wood
21 Mike who voices Shrek
23 Not taut
24 "Dig in!"
25 "— takers?"
26 Store VIP
28 Stephen of "Ondine"
30 High-speed PC link
31 German cry
32 Misery
33 Rover's warning
36 Mando-lin's kin
37 Big Bang, for one
40 Annoy
42 Scruffs
43 Totally
44 "Lassie" lad
45 Mine waste
46 Island neck-laces
48 Roast VIPs
49 Payback pledge
50 Biol. or chem.
51 Great weight

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	B	S		B	A	B	E		C	I	A	T
D	O	T		O	L	A	N		R	O	M	O
S	I	A	R	W	A	R	S		A	R	O	N
		R	O	W		R	U	M	C	A	K	E
T	A	B	O	O	S		E	E	K			
M	S	U		W	I	O		G	U	R	U	S
E	T	C	H		Y	U	K		P	O	R	T
N	A	K	E	D		I	I	C		C	A	Y
			R	A	J			I	C	K	L	E
C	O	C	O	N	U	T		D	J	S		
H	A	R	I		L	O	N	E	S	T	A	R
A	T	A	N		I	L	E	R		A	V	I
I	S	M	E		A	L	A	S		R	E	P

Yesterday's answer 12-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Christina Aguilera, 35; Katie Holmes, 37; Brad Pitt, 52; Steven Spielberg, 69.

Happy Birthday: Look at all sides of whatever comes your way this year. You will have to be adaptable if you want to avoid being left out. Be a contributor and don't leave anything to chance. If you are aggressive about finding out the information required to make wise choices, you will not be disappointed or taken advantage of by others. Your numbers are 2, 9, 14, 23, 35, 38, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't let your emotions run wild. Relax and aim for a mellow state of mind and ignore what others say and do. Focus inward and on what it takes to make subtle personal changes. Strive to be happy with your life. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Communication and travel plans should occupy your time. Getting your point across will help you expand your awareness as well as bring people on board to help you achieve your goals. Opportunity will surface in a most peculiar way. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't judge others or take on responsibilities that you don't have time for. Impulse can be good, but not if you haven't factored in all the small but important details required. Reassess matters and take on only what you know you can handle. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Face personal problems and let go of situations that are dragging you down. You can bring about positive changes at home if you are willing to do things differently. Open up to suggestions and be a team player. Love will conquer all. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take part in festivities that will bring you closer to loved ones. How you express affection will make a difference to the way you are treated in return. Your time and affection will far outweigh any gifts you offer. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Guard your money and personal possessions. If you plan to make changes at home, do so with caution. Socialize with people who motivate you. Don't let uncertainty get you down. Time is on your side. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Preparation will be required if you want to avoid criticism. Don't let anyone bully you into doing things you don't want to do. Learn from past mistakes and listen to those with experience, and you will avoid making a regretful mistake. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Your personal and emotional choices will be on target and insightful. Make special plans that will allow you to spend quality time with someone you love. Don't limit what you can do. It's up to you to make things happen. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Stick close to home and avoid travel, dealing with superiors or institutional organizations. Take the time to go over your choices carefully and start by making good decisions at home. Build a solid base and you will succeed. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Refuse to let what others do interfere with your productivity. Follow through with your plans even if someone pulls out at the last minute. Your strength and courage will separate you from any competition you face. Self-improvement is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't wait around for things to come to you. Do whatever it takes to be noticed. Hard work will help boost your reputation and popularity. Favors will be granted if you show off your potential. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Hone your skills and tidy up any loose ends. Preparation will be the key to getting the help you need to turn your dream into a reality. A partnership looks promising. Indulgence will work against you. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are quick and captivating. You are creative, passionate and industrious.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6						2	
4					5	8	7	9
				9	3		1	
						4	8	
		2				5		
	9	3						
	5		8	2				
6	8	9	1					7
	1						3	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	9	4	6	1	2	5	3	7
2	7	3	8	4	5	6	1	9
1	6	5	9	7	3	8	4	2
6	1	7	5	2	8	3	9	4
3	2	8	1	9	4	7	6	5
4	5	9	3	6	7	2	8	1
7	8	6	4	5	1	9	2	3
9	4	2	7	3	6	1	5	8
5	3	1	2	8	9	4	7	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/17

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

POCKET DIALING **Solution: 8 letters**

D	R	P	D	E	S	S	E	R	P	U	R	S	E	A
N	E	A	N	N	X	B	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	C
O	W	S	E	U	U	P	D	Y	L	C	E	A	T	T
P	S	S	S	T	I	M	O	I	C	I	C	I	N	N
S	N	C	T	A	M	S	B	S	A	A	I	R	E	E
E	A	O	H	L	R	O	A	E	E	L	V	T	C	V
R	N	D	A	K	M	R	D	N	R	D	E	I	E	E
S	E	E	N	I	T	O	A	N	C	R	(D)	M	R	R
C	R	E	G	N	I	F	V	B	A	E	(A)	E	G	P
R	A	E	U	G	S	E	I	E	M	R	(P)	S	N	B
E	W	D	P	U	S	H	H	L	M	E	Y	H	I	O
E	A	I	D	I	E	R	R	O	R	E	C	O	R	D
N	P	H	O	N	E	B	O	O	K	U	N	A	E	Y
H	A	N	D	V	N	E	S	U	O	P	S	T	L	T
N	E	P	O	U	N	I	N	T	E	N	D	E	D	L

©2015 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wordamaze Game App 12/18

Airtime, Answer, Aware, Body, Buttons, Call, Device, Dial, Embarrassed, Error, Exposed, Finger, Friends, Hand, Hang Up, Hide, Keys, Lift, Mobile, Movement, Noise, Nuisance, Number, Open, Overhear, Pad, Passcode, Phone Book, Pressed, Prevent, Privacy, Purse, Push, Random, Recent, Record, Respond, Ring, Screen, Send, Sit, Spouse, Talking, Touch, Unintended

Yesterday's Answer: Hero

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Send résumé to: jkvsaipan670@aol.com

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHISPERING PALMS SCHOOL

Mid-Year Elementary Teaching Position has opened at Whispering Palms School on Navy Hill. We are looking for a full-time teacher for our multi-grade primary class (K-2) of 10 students to start on January 11, 2016. Qualified candidates should have an elementary teaching credential and preferably 2+ years of classroom teaching experience. If you are interested, please call 323-7451 or email your resume to: whisperingpalmsofsaipan@gmail.com

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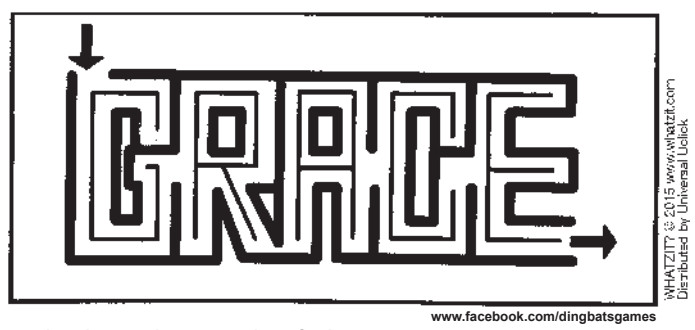

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Find today's solution in classified section

Thompson's 27-point 3rd quarter lifts Warriors past Suns

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Klay Thompson scored 27 of his season-high 43 points in the third quarter and the Golden State Warriors responded after their first loss following a record 24-0 start by beating the Phoenix Suns 128-103 on Wednesday night.

Stephen Curry added 25 points on 10-of-14 shooting and seven assists as Golden State returned home from its two-week road trip that ended with its lone defeat, 108-95 on Saturday at Milwaukee. That also ended a 28-game overall winning streak by the Warriors, second-longest in NBA history.

Draymond Green had 16 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for his fourth triple-double this season, while Thompson hit 15-of-22 shots and 8-of-13 3-pointers in his first 40-point game this season.

Mirza Teletovic scored 24 points off the bench for the Suns, whose poor showing sent the sellout crowd to the exits midway through the fourth.

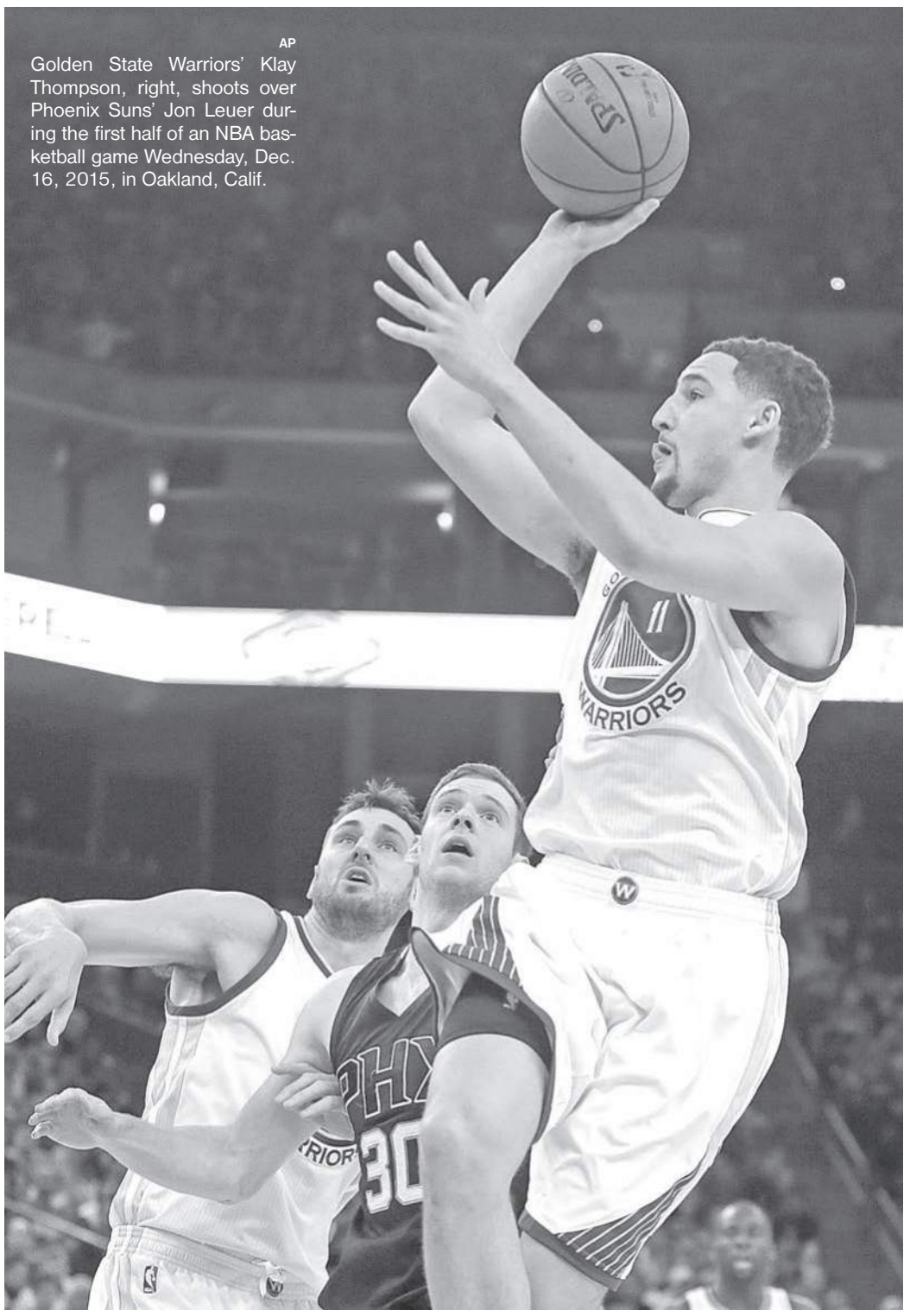
Thompson's big quarter was reminiscent of his NBA-record, 37-point outburst in the third quarter of a career-high, 52-point performance on Jan. 23. He helped the Warriors turn the game into a rout with a remarkable 67-23 run, making 9 of 11 shots in the third and 4 of 6 3s.

Golden State's 46-point third quarter is the largest in any quarter in the NBA this season. With the starters resting down the stretch, the Warriors just missed a new largest win ever against the Suns—Golden State had a 133-103 victory on March 18, 1975.

In the team's first game at Oracle Arena in 18 days, Golden State warmed up with a big run stretching from the second quarter to the third. The Warriors used a 58-19 run over 14:01 to turn a 42-38 deficit with 5 minutes left in the first half into a 96-61 advantage.

Golden State won its eighth in a row at home against Phoenix, fifth straight overall and 13th in 16. The Suns sit in third place in the Pacific Division behind Golden State and the Clippers.

The Warriors now will get a shot at Milwaukee again when the Bucks visit Oracle Arena on Friday. The Warriors ran their regular-season home winning streak to 29 dating to Golden State winning its final 18 here last season.



AP

Golden State Warriors' Klay Thompson, right, shoots over Phoenix Suns' Jon Leuer during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2015, in Oakland, Calif.

Spurs 114, Wizards 95

In San Antonio, Kawhi Leonard scored 27 points and the San Antonio Spurs set a franchise record with their 23rd straight home victory, rolling past the Washington Wizards 114-95 on Wednesday night.

LaMarcus Aldridge added 14 points and Manu Ginobili and Patty Mills each had 11 for San Antonio. The Spurs are 14-0 at home and 22-5 overall.

John Wall and Marcin Gortat had 20 points apiece for the Wizards. Gortat grabbed 10 rebounds. Washington was without leading scorer Bradley Beal and fellow starter Nene.

Heat 104, Nets 98

In New York, Dwyane Wade scored 10 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter, and Hassan Whiteside had 20 points and 13 rebounds to help Miami beat Brooklyn.

Goran Dragic added 16 points, Gerald Green had 13 and Justise Winslow 11 for Miami in the Heat's third straight victory. Brook Lopez scored 25 points, and Jarrett Jack had 22 points and 10 assists for the Nets. They dropped the final three games of their six-game homestand.

The Nets cut it to 101-98 when Jack made three free throws with 1:01 left. Wade countered with a floater with 43 seconds remaining, and Dragic capped the scoring with a free throw with 5 seconds left.

Knicks 107, Timberwolves 102

In New York, Carmelo Anthony had 20 points, 15 rebounds and nine assists, Arron Afflalo scored 29 points, and New York beat Minnesota.

Kristaps Porzingis had 11 points, six rebounds, six blocks and three assists for the Knicks in his first matchup against fellow rookie and No. 1 pick Karl-Anthony Towns.

Towns had 25 points and 10 rebounds, Andrew Wiggins had 23 points, and Zach LaVine added 19 points for the Timberwolves.

Thunder 106, Trail Blazers 90

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 24 points, leading Oklahoma City past Portland for its sixth straight victory.

Dion Waiters scored 18 points, Enes Kanter had 12 points and 13 rebounds, and Steven Adams added 11 points and 11 rebounds for the Thunder, They have held seven consecutive opponents under 100 points.

C.J. McCollum scored 24 points and Damian Lillard added 20 for the Trail Blazers, but Lillard was held scoreless on 0-for-9 shooting in the second half.

Bulls 98, Grizzlies 85

In Chicago, Jimmy Butler scored 24 points, Derrick Rose added 19 and Chicago beat Memphis.

Butler and Rose shook off recent illnesses, and the Bulls used a big third quarter to tie a season high with their fourth straight win.

Doug McDermott scored 17 points— one shy of his career high— and hit four 3-pointers. Pau Gasol added 10 points and 14 rebounds in his 21st game against younger brother Marc.

Hawks 127, 76ers 106

In Atlanta, Paul Millsap scored 21 points, Jeff Teague added 18 and Atlanta routed Philadelphia to snap a three-game skid.

The Hawks had lost 11 of 18 after starting the season 7-1, but they never trailed against the woeful Sixers, who dropped to 0-16 on the road, 1-26 overall.

Isaiah Canaan finished with a season-high 24 points for Philadelphia.

Pacers 107, Mavericks 81

In Indianapolis, Monta Ellis scored 13 of his 19 points in the third quarter, C.J. Miles added 20, and Paul George had 19 to help Indiana beat Dallas.

The Pacers trailed 47-45 at halftime, and outscored Dallas 30-17 in the third quarter. Ellis was scoreless in the first half, but the former Maverick scored six straight points early in the third to ignite the Pacers. Indiana led by 26 in the fourth quarter.

Magic 113, Hornets 98

In Orlando, Channing Frye had a season-high 17 points in Orlando's victory over Charlotte.

Evan Fournier had 15 points, Nik Vucevic had 14 points and eight rebounds, Elfrid Payton had 12 points and nine assists and Tobias Harris had 13 points for Orlando. The Magic led by 25 points in the fourth quarter before turning the game over to the reserves.

Reserve Jeremy Lamb led the Hornets with 16 points.

Pelicans 104, Jazz 94

In Salt Lake City, Ryan Anderson scored 24 points to lead New Orleans past Utah.

Anthony Davis had 17 points and 13 rebounds, and Eric Gordon added 19 points for the Pelicans.

Derrick Favors had 16 of his 22 points in the third quarter, added seven rebounds and matched a career high with five assists for Utah. Gordon Hayward had 20 points and six rebounds.

Pistons 119, Celtics 116

In Auburn Hills, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored a career-high 31 points and Detroit beat Boston.

Reggie Jackson finished with 23 points, including 14 in the third quarter. Andre Drummond had 16 points and 12 rebounds. Jarded Sullinger had 17 points and 10 rebounds for Boston.

Clippers 103, Bucks 90

In Los Angeles, Chris Paul had 21 points and eight assists and the Los Angeles Clippers overcame the third-quarter ejection of center DeAndre Jordan to beat the Milwaukee Bucks 103-90 on Wednesday night.

Jordan had nine points and eight rebounds in 18 minutes. He left with 6:49 remaining in the third after getting a pair technical fouls from referee Marc Davis with the Clippers leading 66-52. The calls stemmed from a battle over a loose ball with Bucks guard Michael Carter-Williams.

J.J. Redick scored 19 points and Blake Griffin added 15 points for the Clippers. Los Angeles was coming off a 4-1 trip that ended with an overtime win at Detroit on Monday night. The Clippers have won nine of their last 11 overall.

Milwaukee has lost 11 straight on the road. O.J. Mayo and Michael Carter-Williams each scored 17 for the Bucks.

NFL changing playoff officiating procedure

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL will have game referees in the playoffs consult with its director of officiating about the application of rules in situations not currently covered in instant replay reviews.

Those situations will include the appropriate assessment of penalty yardage; proper administration of the game clock; correct downs; and any other administrative matter not currently reviewable.

But Dean Blandino, the vice president of officiating, will not be able to call a foul or change a call, "or otherwise become involved in on-field judgment calls that are not subject to the current instant replay system."

Communication on administration matters can be initiated by Blandino or the referee, the league said Wednesday.

The changes were recommended by the NFL's powerful competition committee and approved by Commissioner Roger Goodell. Earlier this month, Goodell had spoken to the 32 team owners about the concept.

"The committee feels strongly that giving the referee and Dean the ability to consult with each other in certain situations beyond instant replay will further support officiating in the playoffs," said competition committee chairman Rich McKay, president of the Atlanta Falcons. "The officials do a very difficult job exceedingly well, and we think this adjustment in the playoffs will make them even better."

The NFL has had a rough season with its officiating, including notifying teams several times that calls had been missed or incorrectly made. Officials, who are part-timers, have also been doubted by team personnel, players and the media about their mastery of the encyclopedic rule book.

It is likely the league will look further during the offseason into how officiating is managed during games, with the competition committee playing a major role.

"We constantly strive to make our game progressively better for the players, coaches and fans," said NFL Executive Vice President of Football Operations Troy Vincent. "This change will assist our officials with an additional resource for clarity and consistency in game administration."

Frazier goes from Reds to White Sox in 3-team, 7-player deal

Todd Frazier was acquired by the White Sox from the Cincinnati Reds on Wednesday as part of a three-team, seven-player trade that also included the Los Angeles Dodgers.

CHICAGO (AP)—The White Sox were looking to add some pop while solidifying third base, and they are counting on Todd Frazier to provide it.

The All-Star third baseman was acquired from the Cincinnati Reds on Wednesday as part of a three-team, seven-player trade that also included the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Los Angeles received outfielder Trayce Thompson, right-hander Frankie Montas and second baseman Micah Johnson from the White Sox, and Cincinnati got infielders Brandon Dixon and Jose Peraza and outfielder Scott Schebler from the Dodgers.

The 29-year-old Frazier, who won last summer's All-Star Home Run Derby in Cincinnati, was an NL All-Star in each of the last two seasons and hit .255 this year with 43 doubles, 35 homers and 89 RBIs. "I'm pretty excited," he said. "I've got to be truthful with you. I know it's the American League. I know it's gonna be a little different. It might take a little time to get acclimated. But I just saw the lineup on TV. It kinda put a smile on my face to see the guys we've got."

The move gives the White Sox a run producer and solid defensive third baseman who grew into a clubhouse leader in Cincinnati.

They hope he can help lift a team that finished a disappointing fourth in the AL Central at 76-86 and struggled to score despite the presence of Jose Abreu in the middle of the lineup. The White Sox ranked 28th in the majors in runs, and their third basemen were 29th in batting average and last in RBIs.

"Certainly, we feel a lot better," White Sox general manager Rick Hahn said. "You've got a middle-of-the-order presence, obviously a power hitter with extra-base ability as well and someone to help solidify the middle and make it a little tougher to come through here."

Frazier has a $7.5 million salary next year and can become a free agent after the 2017 season.

His arrival means the White Sox will go with Brett Lawrie)—acquired from Oakland last week)—at second rather than third. Hahn said the White Sox were talking to Cincinnati about a trade for Frazier when that deal was completed.

"Brett gave us an answer at that time at third base should we do nothing else, and we also knew that if we were able to get Todd, Brett had the versatility to help us at second as well," Hahn said.

Frazier)— a Jersey boy dubbed the ToddFather in Cincinnati)—had in many ways become the face of Cincinnati's franchise after he won the All-Star Game Home Run Derby so dramatically in July at Great American Ball Park.

Teams started expressing an interest in Frazier during the winter meetings last week. Reds president of baseball operations Walt Jocketty said parting with him was not easy, nor was the call informing him of the deal.

Frazier's Home Run Derby title was the best moment in Cincinnati's disappointing season that ended in a 64-98 record and prompted the Reds to start a full-scale rebuilding.

They dealt starting pitchers Johnny Cueto and Mike Leake in July, leaving them with an all-rookie rotation. They had a deal in place to ship closer Aroldis Chapman to the Dodgers this month before an offseason domestic dispute became public, putting the trade on hold.

Jocketty is talking to other teams about Chapman.

"We're not close to anything yet, but we continue to talk to clubs and clubs have expressed interest," he said. "I don't know how to determine when that might happen."

Cincinnati plans initially to move shortstop Eugenio Suarez to third base, with Zack Cozart expected to return from reconstructive knee surgery. The Reds plan to use Peraza as a second baseman.

The Reds have tried to trade Brandon Phillips, but his contract has been an issue - he is owed $13 million next year and $14 million in 2017.

The big-budget Dodgers haven't made an extraordinary splash this winter, but President of Baseball Operations Andrew Friedman believes this deal bolsters his roster while putting Los Angeles in position to make bigger moves.

"We're obviously having a lot of conversations that involve us trading prospects and different scenarios," Friedman said. "(This trade) wasn't necessarily directly connected, but every move we make has some connection, and extending our talent base is helpful on multiple fronts. I do know some teams that have some interest in some of the guys that we acquired, but these guys are really interesting. They're good, young players."

The 24-year-old Thompson, a Los Angeles-area native, made his big league debut in August and hit .295 with five homers and 16 RBIs in 44 games. He was an International League All-Star this year for Triple-A Charlotte.

Thompson is the brother of Golden State guard Klay Thompson and the son of former NBA player Mychal Thompson, now a Los Angeles-based broadcaster.

Friedman said Thompson is an "exceptional athlete with strong bloodlines. We feel like he has a chance to really continue to improve, really feel like the arrow is still pointing up."

Montas was 0-2 with a 4.80 ERA in two starts and five relief appearances for Chicago last season and 5-5 with a 2.97 ERA in 23 starts at Double-A Birmingham. Friedman seemed particularly high on the hard-throwing 22-year-old prospect.

"I feel like he's got a real good chance to be a real good major league starting pitcher," Friedman said, even suggesting Montas had a shot to crack new manager Dave Roberts' opening day rotation. "And if not, we feel like he can be a real impact bullpen arm."

Friedman said the Dodgers weren't interested in getting Frazier in the deal because they're set at third base with Justin Turner and didn't want to ask Frazier to change positions.

Schebler, 25, also made his big league debut this year and hit .250 with three homers and four RBIs in 19 games for the Dodgers.

Peraza, obtained by the Dodgers from Atlanta on July 30, made his major league debut on Aug. 10 and went 4 for 22 in seven games.

Dixon, 23, had 19 homers, 68 RBIs and 26 steals for Class A Rancho Cucamonga and Double-A Tulsa this year.

US celebrates Wambach's final game, but falls to China

NEW ORLEANS (AP)— Abby Wambach walked off the field for the final time like a rock star—mic drop and all.

It sounded as if she was ready to party like one, too.

She wasn't able to leave with a victory in her final game with the U.S. national team. But China's 1-0 victory on Wednesday night wasn't going to diminish the triumphant nature of her extraordinary career.

Wambach said her teammates apologized profusely to her afterward, but she told them, "There's nothing to be sorry about. Today wasn't about getting a result."

Wambach played into the 72nd minute, managing two threatening headers and a shot from inside the penalty area before subbing out of a match for the final time.

"It's kind of symbolic; I get 70 minutes and we don't score a goal," Wambach said, alluding to why it's time for her, at 35, to retire.

The career leader in international play— for men and women, with 184 goals—kicked off her cleats and hugged each teammate on the field before walking to the bench, smiling, to embrace her coaches and remaining teammates as the crowd chanted her name.

"I love this team," Wambach said in comments delivered on the field to fans after the game. "It has been my pleasure and my honor to represent you all, the fans, for as long as I've been able to. ... The future is so bright. These women are going to kill it."

And she made it clear that, despite the loss, it was time to celebrate, saying, "Bourbon Street, watch out," before dropping the microphone on the field and walking off alone as her teammates waited behind, applauding with the rest of the crowd.

AP

U.S. forward Abby Wambach shows a smile to the crowd after the team's international friendly soccer match against China in New Orleans, Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2015. Wambach retired from international competition after the game.

China scored in the 58th minute, when forward Wang Shuang volleyed in a bounding cross from Wang Shanshan.

The U.S. had gone 104 home games without losing since falling to Denmark in 2004.

Kristine Lilly and Mia Hamm started that 3-1 loss Denmark in Philadelphia, while Wambach came in as a sub. The U.S. women had gone 92-0-12 since.

The Americans nearly tied it in the 87th minute when Lindsey Horan beat goalkeeper Zhao Lina, but Horan was ruled just a step offside when she received the pass from Christen Press.

That was the closest of several near misses.

Horan's header forced a diving save by Lina in the 82nd minute. In the 84th minute, Carli Lloyd's pass sent Press into the penalty area for a hard drive from the left side. But Press, who had subbed in for Wambach, shot it right at Lina. In added time, Emily Sonnett's header went just over the cross bar.

The game wrapped up the U.S.'s nine-game victory tour in which it went 7-1-1, outscoring opponents 40-3.

Wambach got her 10th start of the year in her send-off game and also was designated the captain.

It was apparent from the outset that the Americans' plan of attack was based in part on sending high crosses into the penalty area in hopes of connecting with Wambach for one of her trademark headers. She put two headers toward goal in the first 2 minutes, but both were blocked away by defenders.

In the 30th minute, Wambach was able to sidestep a defender and attempt a lunging toe-poke from about 10 yards out, but couldn't muster the power or placement to beat Lina.

Some of the greats in women's soccer were drawn to the Superdome for the game, including Hamm and Brandi Chastain, who starred on the 1999 World Cup-winning squad.

Official US Soccer banners lining field-level walls and covering the tunnels to the locker rooms read, "Only one Abby." And when the teams took the field shortly before kickoff, fans along the sideline held up yellow and black cards with the same slogan.

Before the starting lineups were announced, U.S. Soccer presented Wambach with a rendering of her famous, game-tying head-ball goal against Brazil in the 2011 World Cup. Just below the image was the word, "POWER."

Figo: Ronaldo's goals could win Ballon d'Or

Cristiano Ronaldo has scored 53 goals for Real Madrid and Portugal in 2015 and Luis Figo thinks it could win him the Ballon d'Or.

Luis Figo believes Cristiano Ronaldo will win the 2015 FIFA Ballon d'Or if the decision is based on goals, but a Barcelona player will prevail if trophies are the deciding factor.

The Portuguese forward has won the accolade for the past two years and is on the three-man shortlist once more, alongside four-time winner Lionel Messi and Neymar.

Former Barcelona and Real Madrid ace Figo believes any one of the trio could claim the trophy, but his compatriot's 53 goals for club and country will aid his bid.

"They are three magnificent players," Figo said.

"If the logic about how trophies go to winning teams prevails, the trophy will be for a Barcelona player. But if those who vote single out individual numbers, such as goals scored, Ronaldo could win."

AP

Luis Figo believes Cristiano Ronaldo will win the 2015 FIFA Ballon d'Or if the decision is based on goals.

Figo singled out other players for praise but does not feel anyone can match the quality of Ronaldo and Messi.

"I like very much [PSG's Marco] Verrati, Neymar and Douglas Costa [Bayern Munich], but I think Ronaldo and Messi are a step ahead of everyone else," he added.

Meanwhile, Jose Mourinho's future as Chelsea manager is in suspense over his failure to lift the team out of their alarming slump, according to British press reports on Wednesday.

The Daily Mail said that the Chelsea board was due to meet to discuss Mourinho's position on Wednesday, while the Daily Telegraph claimed the club's hierarchy was drawing up a list of potential replacements.

Premier League champions last season, Chelsea are currently just a point above the relegation zone after losing nine of their 16 matches to date. They have, however, reached the Champions League last 16.

Reports suggest it would cost Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich between $15 million and13.7 million euros to sack Mourinho for a second time, having previously dismissed the Portuguese in 2007.

MIYAWAKI

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Tania Tan (1,000). Heras, incidentally, downed Tan in the finals and then joined forces with the latter in winning against Mimi Sakano and Ami Tsukagoshi in the double. Sakano is ranked third with her 788 points, followed by Tsukagoshi (688) and Guam's Alyssa Merletti (550) and Jocelyn Tenai (450).

In the boys U12 division, Woo's pair of wins in the singles (against Paik) and doubles (with Daniel Kang) landed him at the top spot, ahead of Kang (850) and Paik (750).

The Tan Holdings Tennis Classic is one of the four events where CNMI junior players battle for ranking points to get a spot on the CNMI Team that will compete in the 2016 North Pacific Regional Championships. The three other contests are the Coconut Tennis Classic, Pacific Islands Club Tennis Championships, and the CNMI National Junior Tennis Championships.

The same competition is also one of the ranking tournaments under the Oceania Tennis Federation Circuit. Tournaments are held around the region and at the end of the season, the player with the most points is recognized by the federation.

HOPWOOD 2

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In the other semis game, Marinel Falalimpa knocked in the pair of goals for San Antonio, which was coached by Nina Manglona, Dong Hwun Kim, and Clare Cruz.

MCS duels WSR in boys division

In the boys division, WSR earned a return trip to the finals following a 1-0 victory against San Antonio Middle School.

Leeroy Villagomez canned the lone goal in the match in the second half to give WSR a chance to take the championship that eluded them last year. The Kingfishers lost last year's finale to Saipan International School, 1-2.

In the other Final Four pairing, Mt. Carmel School also eked out a 1-0 win against Hopwood-1 to make it to the finals of the annual league for the first time after missing the competition for the past three years.

Merrick Toves registered the lone goal early in the first half off a penalty kick. He canned the penalty to the right corner of Hopwood-1 goalie David Myers.

Toves and the Knights advanced to the semis after placing second on the Northern Group with its 4-0-2 win-draw-loss record. WSR topped the group after posting a 5-1-0 slate. On the Southern Group, Hopwood-1 was the first finisher with its 5-1-0 mark, while San Antonio took the No. 2 spot with its 4-1-1 card.

The Mt. Carmel-WSR finale will be played tomorrow at 10:30am at Hopwood Pitch 1, while on Pitch 1, Hopwood-2 and San Antonio will dispute the girls tiara.

DOCOMO

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spread, as it ran down the clock, while Docomo canned only a triple after Manibusan's basket.

Docomo made only four field goals in the fourth-quarter collapse, while McDonald's nearly doubled up its foe in the final canto, 19-9.

Michael Achas top-scored for McDonald's, logging 22 points, while his brother McClain chipped in 15. Gil Gapor also finished in twin digits with 14, drilling 8 of them in the third period where McDonald's threatened to pull away, 48-34, before Docomo mounted a comeback late in that canto.

Meanwhile, Saipan Ice got its second win in a row after drawing 20-plus points from Treat Kaipat and Derrick Rangamar. Kaipat registered 23 markers, while Rangamar contributed 21. William Henry and Michael Welson backed them up, posting 13 and 11 markers, respectively.

Kaipat hit 10 of his total production in the third period to give Saipan Ice more cushion, 62-56, after holding a shaky 41-40 lead at halftime. Rangamar then took over in the fourth canto, tallying 9 markers, including three free throws that sealed the win for Saipan Ice.

First Game

Saipan Ice 78 – Kaipat 23, Rangamar 21, William 13, Welson 11, Olopai 4, Santy 4, Iguel 3.

Mariana Resort 72 – Litulumar 20, Manglona 17, Fidelino 16, Lifoifoi 10, Capuli 7, Bansil 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-22, 41-40, 62-56, 78-72.

Second Game

McDonald's 73 – Mi. Achas 22, Mc. Achas 15, Gapor 14, J. Achas 6, Ayuyu 6, L. Achas 5, Gaspar 3, Palacios 2.

Docomo 58 – Manibusan 19, Sanciangco 15, Joson 8, Diaz 8, Sablan 2, Hayes 2, Sanchez 2, White 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-15, 32-30, 54-48, 73-58.

COPSSA Volleyball League Girls High School Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan International School's Sakura Imaya bumps the ball during the first set of their title game against Mt. Carmel School in the girls high school division of the 2015-2016 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League early this month at the Whispering Palms court.

Saipan International School's Jennifer Tan tips the ball in.

Mt. Carmel School's Karleen Reyes bumps the ball.

A Mt. Carmel School player goes for a dink.

Mt. Carmel School's Jan Travilla spikes the ball.

A Mt. Carmel School player sets up her teammate for a spike.

Mt. Carmel School's Karleen Reyes receives the ball from the backcourt.

A Mt. Carmel School player swings the ball back.

Mt. Carmel School supporters watch the play.

Thompson's 27-point 3rd quarter lifts Warriors past Suns

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Sports

US celebrates Wambach's final game, but falls to China

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Hopwood 2 vs San Antonio in IFL finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hopwood Junior High School-2 and San Antonio Middle School arranged their title duel in the girls division of the 2015 NMIFA U12 Interscholastic Football League after shutting down their respective semis opponents yesterday at the Hopwood pitch.

Hopwood-2 made it to the finals first following a 6-0 victory over 2014 champion William S. Reyes Elementary School, while San Antonio followed suit after a 2-0 win against Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School.

Four different players scored in Hopwood-2's demolition of the dethroned champion WSR, which took last year's crown after nipping Garapan Elementary School in the finale, 2-1. Katrina Costales and Paulynn Joyce drilled two goals apiece for Hopwood-2, while Jerlyn Castillo and Lovely Loyola chipped in one apiece.

Loyola put Hopwood-2 on the board in the seventh minute, while the team's next two goals in the 20-minute first half came from Costales and Joyce, who found the back of the net in the 16th and 19th minute, respectively. Castillo then opened things up for Hopwood-2 with her shot in the 23rd minute, while Costales got her second in the 28th, and Joyce duplicated the feat six minutes later. WSR failed to produce goals on its counter attack against the defense of the Jude Loste and Zachariah Johnson-coached Hopwood-2 and its goalie Rita Agulto.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Hopwood Junior High School-2 players and their coaches huddle after beating William S. Reyes Elementary School, 6-0, in the girls division semifinals of the 2015 NMIFA U12 Interscholastic Football League yesterday at the Hopwood pitch.

McDonald's eases past Docomo

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
McDonald's Sherwin Gaspar looks for a teammate to pass the ball to as he is hounded by Docomo's Richard Mendiola during the fourth quarter of their game in the JP World caging last Wednesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

McDonald's capitalized on Docomo's fourth-quarter meltdown to notch an easy 73-58 win in the second game in the 2nd JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Wednesday at Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

With the victory, McDonald's moved up to third place in the team standings, tying Saipan Ice & Water's 3-4 record. Saipan Ice earlier gained its third win in seven games after outclassing Mariana Resort, 78-72, in the curtain-raiser. Mariana Resort dropped to a 2-5 slate, while Docomo fell to a 2-5 mark.

Docomo was very much in the game, 53-55, with still 8:34 left in the fourth quarter when it failed to buy a basket in the next four minute and change of the match, while four McDonald's players combined for 11 points to give their team a baker's dozen lead, 66-53.

Mel Manibusan finally ended Docomo's silence, drilling a banked shot, however McDonald's countered with 4 quick points to put the game away for good. McDonald's protected the double-digit

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Miyawaki, 3 others get most rankings points in jr. tennis

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Malika Miyawaki, Robbie Schorr, Isabel Heras, and Ji Min Woo collected the most ranking points at stake in the 7th Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic.

The four junior players each earned 1,250 ranking points after topping the singles and doubles events in their respective age groups in the first tournament under the 2015-2016 calendar of Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association.

The 14-year-old Miyawaki won the girls U14 singles against Conatsu Kaga and then teamed up with the latter in beating Maria Gregoire and Asia Raulerson in the doubles finals. Miyawaki was awarded 1,000 points in the singles and 250 in the doubles.

Conatsu and Raulerson are behind Miyawaki at second and third. Conatsu has 1,000 rankings points, while Raulerson has 788. Four other Saipan players made the ranking list in the girls U14 division and the list include Coume Kaga (500), Gregoire (488), Erika Tuttle (400), and Riko Ojima (200).

In the boys U14 division, Schorr matched Miyawaki's feat after beating Ken Song in the singles finale. Schorr also got 1,000 points for his singles win and added 250 more for partnering with Song and downing Michael Ren and Vincent Tudela in the doubles finals.

Song settled for the second most ranking points with his 1,000, while Tony Kim has the third best (800). Rounding out the Top 5 after the first tournament of the season are Seung Jin Paik (500), and Sean Lee (450).

In the girls U16, Heras took 1,250 points to place ahead of

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Malika Miyawaki, left, poses with her girls U14 doubles partner Conatsu Kaga during the awards ceremony for the 7th Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic early this month at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.